

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 4, 1998

**THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 4, 1998

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Bill Busbice
Danny Babin
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey
Glynn Carver

Assistant Secretary John Roussel was also present.

Commissioner Thomas Kelly was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **May 7, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. He began thanking Representative John Smith and Senator James David Cain for coming to the meeting. Senator Cain stated they were representing a group of people from Vernon Parish on a hunting line. Several hunting clubs in a portion of Area 2 wanted to remain in that area, but able to hunt with or without dogs. This change would not affect the T. L. James group. Representative Smith thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and knew they would respond to the needs of the State. He then stated he has spoken with Major LaCaze and the Major may have a solution to this situation. Commissioner Busbice asked if Mr. David Wellman was attending the meeting? Senator Cain stated yes. He then stated there was a letter from the landowners stating they did not have a problem with the change.

Mr. David Wellman stated he contacted 3 different agencies last year and was told this change would not affect his club. But when the hunting pamphlets came out, he found out it did affect them. He asked the Commission to consider letting this area run their dogs during deer season. Chairman Gattle stated it would be appropriate for Mr. Wellman to get with staff of the Wildlife Division and see if there is a solution that could be brought back to the Commission.

Major Keith LaCaze stated the T. L. James group wants to be in Area 2 and designated as still hunting only area. The area being requested by Mr. Wellman includes Highway 8 which could serve as an enforceable boundary line. Commissioner Busbice asked if there

were any other areas within Area 2 that was still hunting only? Chairman Gattle suggested Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions meet and provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated he would look at the map from Mr. Wellman and felt it was strictly a user issue and was not a problem from a biological standpoint. After meeting with the group, Mr. Prickett stated they would probably make a recommendation at the next meeting. He then stated the staff has received a lot of public input on restricting the use of ATVs larger than 400cc on wildlife management areas. From the comments received, they are in agreement with the reason for the restriction which is habitat damage, but did agree the restriction would fix it. Mr. Prickett then recommended removing that provision from the Notice of Intent and the staff would seek other solutions to the habitat damage problem. Commissioner Babin asked if the Department received a lot of comments putting the limit at 400cc's? Mr. Prickett stated yes even though there were only a few machines over 400cc's used during the last hunting season. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to explain the change? Mr. Prickett stated he wanted an indication from the Commission that they do or do not want to make the change. Commissioner Busbice made a motion removing the sentence, "No ATV greater than 400cc will be permitted for use on the Wildlife Management Areas" from the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it was approved with no opposition. Mr. Don Puckett stated any items taken up before July's final ratification would be amended accordingly.

Mr. Prickett then asked the Commission if they wanted to extend the squirrel season by 7 days which would allow it to run until February 14. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to extend the squirrel season and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. The motion passed with no opposition.

Finally, Mr. Prickett stated it was recommended opening quail season on November 14, but a field trial has been scheduled for that date on Sandy Hollow WMA. He then suggested not opening the quail season on Sandy Hollow until November 16 to accommodate the field trial. Commissioner Busbice made such a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver. Chairman Gattle asked if there were any comments from Enforcement on this change? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated they did not have any problem with the change. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle stated he has been asked to make a presentation to a Department employee for his accomplishments, service and outstanding performance as it relates to Policy #37, Premium Pay for Attainment of Education and Training Credentials. Sandy Dares was presented a one-time cash award of \$500 for attainment of Certificate in Supervisory Techniques and another \$500 for attainment of Certified Public Management Designation under the Comprehensive Public Training Program. Mr. Dares is the

first and only employee to accomplish this, stated Chairman Gattle. He then congratulated Mr. Dares for a job well done.

Mr. Don Puckett handled the next agenda item, **Rule Ratification on Importation of White-Tailed Deer**. The rule is identical to the Declaration of Emergency approved by the Commission at the April meeting. Mr. Puckett read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the resolution. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with Commissioner Hanchey abstaining.

(The full text of the Resolution and Rule is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, as well as to enact rules and regulations for the protection of all game animals within the state, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** these rules will allow for the propagation, raising, and selling of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens approved by LDAF with concurrence of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS,** unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and, genetic alteration, and

WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the attached rules regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may prohibit importation of white-tailed deer from additional states when importation from those states may pose a threat to the health of the wildlife resources or citizens of Louisiana.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer - any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without

first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer 6 months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:6(10), (13) and (15), R.S. 56:20 and R.S. 56:171 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: (June 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope was also handled by Mr. Don Puckett. The

Notice of Intent is identical to the Declaration of Emergency passed by the Commission at its April meeting. It establishes hunting seasons for farm raised white-tailed deer and exotics. All of the regulations for hunting are identical to the regulations of wild white-tailed deer. The season for exotics is year round, stated Mr. Puckett. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Babin. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Hanchey.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Notice of Intent to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics--any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer--any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Same as Outside--hunting within an enclosure must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting, as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the specific geographic area in which the enclosure is located.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside, except still hunt only during all segments.

2. Exotics: Year round

3. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Methods of Take

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

D. Shooting Hours

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

E. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: No limit.

F. Hunting Permit and Licenses

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: No person shall take or attempt to take any exotic without possessing an Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50 shall be assessed for each Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

G. Tagging

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Each exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of

Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

H. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

I. Prior Declaration of Emergency. This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this rule.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 36:601, R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:171 et seq., and R.S. 56:651 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. August 5, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing began with Mr. Mike Olinde stating the season was fairly productive. Over 1600 birds were checked at the weigh stations, which represents a 17 percent increase over last season. The birds were checked in 41 parishes and data presented in the report was based on habitat regions. Estimates from these regions included southeast Florida parishes with an increase of 17 percent; western longleaf pine had the greatest increase of about 20 percent; the northwestern shortleaf/lob lolly hardwood had over 500 percent increase over the last 10 years due to restocking efforts, reproduction and better distribution of check stations. On the wildlife management areas, 275 turkeys were checked. Commissioner Carver stated he was impressed with the turkey program. He then stated he has received complaints on the lottery system. He recommended setting up a preferred point system for those hunters not drawn one year. Commissioner Carver felt this should also be

used with the deer lottery and any other lotteries. He asked the staff to look into the point system.

Mr. Olinde then introduced Mr. Paul Ferrell, Regional Director for the National Wild Turkey Federation in Louisiana. Mr. Ferrell briefly gave an update on what the National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter in Louisiana has accomplished since 1990. Approximately \$218,000 has been spent on state property with an additional \$12,000 used to assist the Department in acquiring 40 acres adjoining Sicily Island Hills WMA. The State Chapter has also worked with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and school libraries, youth programs, the Department's Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, and Operation Game Thief. Then Mr. Ferrell asked the Commission to help him draw for the winners of the Remington 870 Express shotguns. The winner for Districts 1, 2 and 3 was Mr. James Miller from Eunice, Louisiana. Mr. Cory Williams from Baskin, Louisiana was the winner from Districts 4, 5 and 6. Then from District 7, the winner was Mr. Burk Jones from Greensburg, Louisiana. Mr. Ferrell then thanked the Commission for their assistance. Commissioner Carver asked where is Greensburg, Louisiana. Mr. Hugh Bateman stated it was in St. Helena Parish about 25 or 30 miles from Baton Rouge. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. Ferrell for all the work done for the wild turkey restoration in the State and Nation.

A Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation was presented by Mr. Hugh Bateman. This same item was on the June 1997 Commission Meeting agenda and the action taken has kept the regulation on the books. A video put together by Ducks Unlimited documents the ecological damage that overpopulation of snow geese are having on the arctic breeding grounds. Two reasons were given for discussing the repeal the first time and these included, difficulty in enforcing the regulation and how can hunters increase the kill of snow geese by some measure. Mr. Bateman stated there does not appear to be any end in sight in the expansion of the numbers of birds. He then predicted something bad will eventually happen with snow geese and it will affect all species of wildlife that use arctic wetlands for their livelihood. A video was shown at this point in the meeting. Mr. Bateman stated, back in the 1960's there were 400,000 snow geese wintering in Louisiana, now the numbers are about 1,000,000. It will take drastic action on the breeding grounds to control the overpopulation problem and not just a change in rules and regulations for daily hunting procedures. Managers are trying to find a way to move the surplus geese into a useable, sensible control of the population.

Commissioner Hanchey asked how would the specklebellies be protected if goose creeping was allowed? Mr. Bateman stated there was no guarantee that specklebellies would be impacted, but he felt personally, there would not be that much difference. Another suggestion by Mr. Bateman was to try something and then learn as you go along. From what he has seen, Chairman Gattle stated

specklebellies are usually off by themselves away from snow geese. Commissioner Hanchey stated if he would creep, he would creep on the specks and get his limit. Commissioner Carver asked what was the original purpose for the goose creeping regulation? Mr. Bateman felt it was an enforcement effort to control overbagging waterfowl and creeping was chosen as the method to resolve the behavior of certain hunters. He also felt the law was not effective because it was difficult to enforce. Louisiana is the only state to have this regulation on their books. This creeping regulation may also be a tool to address trespass issues, stated Mr. Bateman. He then reminded the Commission the issue of overabundance of snow geese is a serious problem internationally. Commissioner Carver stated the goose creeping regulation was not put in to control population of geese. He then stated he has talked to a lot of farmers that want the regulation kept because of trespassing. Creeping into a flock of geese and killing 4 or 5 as well as crippling dozens of other birds is not sportsmanlike.

Commissioner Carver asked Enforcement if there were any cases made when the regulation was first adopted? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated there were 3 cases made initially and one of the reasons the courts did not prosecute was the vagueness of creeping. The real issue is the bag limits. In the early 1980's, the reputation of hunters taking over the limit of birds was terrifically bad, stated Lt. Col. Clark. The attitudes of duck hunters has dramatically changed over the past few years. The regulation is a lose-lose situation for law enforcement because it is not being enforced for exactly what it is, stated Lt. Col. Clark. Chairman Gattle asked if Enforcement would prosecute for trespassing? Lt. Col. Clark stated this was the wrong agency to come to for trespass regulations. The Louisiana Legislature needed to make a law that could be enforced by all police agencies. Chairman Gattle asked if agents respond to calls on trespassing to which Lt. Col. Clark responded no. Then the Chairman stated shooting over the limit was enforceable, but goose creeping and trespassing can not be enforced. Commissioner Babin stated he did not know what was worse, taking an over the limit or taking the number of birds allowed and just leaving other dead or crippled birds on the ground. Lt. Col. Clark stated that was an assumptive problem. Chairman Babin stated he did not see a difference between a hunter shooting into an enclosed area and those that shoot into a flock of geese and kills over the limit of birds. Lt. Col. Clark stated that was not a righteous comparison. Commissioner Busbice asked if the federal government sets the limits for blue and snow geese? Commissioner Carver asked if the goose creeping regulation could not be enforced or could not be prosecuted? Chairman Gattle told of an incident where hunters were open about creeping. Lt. Col. Clark reminded the Commission that the agents will work where the system supports him. Commissioner Carver asked if the regulation could be "beefed up" so it could be enforced? Lt. Col. Clark stated a solution would be to tie creeping to the hunter that shoots over the limit.

Commissioner Carver asked Mr. Don Puckett if this item could be reconsidered at a later date? Mr. Puckett stated this could be discussed at any time. Commissioner Carver stated he likes the regulation and that it was never aimed to control the goose population. Then he stated it was the agents responsibility to enforce the law and if they would continue to give citations, this would deter goose creeping. Commissioner Babin stated if the problem has been with the language of the law, instead of doing away with the law, the language should be addressed. Commissioner Busbice stated this is a very difficult problem. Then he stated the electronic calls may be an option in the future, but not right now. Then Commissioner Busbice asked Enforcement and Wildlife what would they like the Commission to do with the creeping law, do away with it or keep it? Lt. Col. Clark stated he would like to see the creeping law done away with. Mr. Bateman stated the law is unenforceable and was passed not for biological reasons. Commissioner Busbice then stated the problem is probably trespass which the Commission has no control over. Commissioner Babin stated they were being blind sided by this being a population problem. Mr. Bateman stated creeping could offer to some degree an increase in snow goose harvest. Commissioner Carver asked how would you stay within the federal guidelines? Mr. Bateman stated creeping offers additional opportunity for people to hunt geese. Commissioner Carver again stated this regulation was not put in to control populations. Chairman Gattle stated trespassing exists now as a result of the current law. He then stated this was a Notice of Intent to abolish the law but he was in favor of trying to find language that would work. There will be 120 days to accept public comment on the Notice of Intent whether it is to abolish the law or revamp it. Mr. Puckett stated the Commission could proceed with the Notice of Intent to abolish the law and then amend the Rule to something different as long as it pertains to goose creeping. Commissioner Babin stated he has a problem with the word "abolish", then he asked if another word could be used such as revise or address. Commissioner McCall stated what the Commission is doing is seeing what the public really wants. Commissioner Carver stated he has a problem with the word "abolish" also. Mr. Puckett stated on every proposed Notice of Intent there is included what the final results may look like. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission has to give Notice of Intent in some way and in theory, the law will be gutted to make it fit Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions. Commissioner Babin stated, for the record, he opposes the word "abolish", and if the vote for final ratification is to abolish the rule, he will vote no then. He agreed to go along with the Notice of Intent as long as the public understood it was not to abolish the law, but to open it for discussion. Commissioner Busbice stated he would like to hear the public comments and possibly come up with a compromise. Commissioner Babin stated if this has been a problem for 10 years, it was now time to solve it. Then he made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Commissioner Carver asked if the Commission would have the opportunity to revise the regulation? Commissioner

Babin stated this action was only to let the public know that goose creeping can be discussed for the next 120 days. Chairman Gattle then asked for public comments.

Mr. Dwight Munchrath, Lafayette, representing his family that owns land in the arctic wintering grounds, stated the critical issue of the arctic habitat has been documented. He then stated, "the Arctic Goose Habitat Workgroup recommends under the hunting methods, removal of the restrictions of hunting techniques such as electronic calls, baiting and creeping to manage this resource". Then Mr. Munchrath stated he was extremely disappointed in the vote taken last year on this issue.

Mr. Carl Gremillion asked Commissioner Carver if he had a problem with stalking any other animal besides geese? Then he stated he was in favor of abolishing the law. Mr. Gremillion felt the Commission was trying to avoid voting on the regulation because of what people say. He then told the Commissioners they need to determine what is right or wrong and then take the flack. Commissioner Busbice stated Mr. Gremillion's remark was not a fair statement. Commissioner Babin mentioned State statutes regulate what the Commission can do. Then he stated, his motion allows them to come up with a solution to the problem. Chairman Gattle stated he wanted to hear Mr. Gremillion's comments and not have a question and answer session.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Crowley, stated he was representing a group of people put together by the Commission in 1994 that has dealt with this problem. He was one of the people who wrote the original statute and trespassing was part of the problem. The problem of overpopulation is not in southwest Louisiana, there are not that many birds in that area any more. Any type of additional shooting pressure will run the remaining birds out of the area, stated Mr. Boudreaux. Mr. Boudreaux felt a majority of the people requesting the regulation be abolished are not directly involved with the problem. Creeping of geese in Louisiana will have a minimal affect on what needs to be done. Several meetings were held with Col. Winton Vidrine and Mr. Johnnie Tarver last year on re-writing a new regulation and about 5 or 6 draft recommendations have come about. Mr. Boudreaux asked the Commission to not abolish the regulation, but replace or amend it to make it a stronger regulation.

Mr. Wilson Thibodaux, from southwest Louisiana, stated he was effective in getting the law passed, but realizes now it was a mistake. He then stated he was in favor of abolishing the law.

Chairman Gattle stated there was a motion and second to give Notice of Intent on creeping and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to abolish the regulation that prohibits goose creeping.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 3. Wild Birds

§307. Goose Creeping

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:547 (August 1988), repealed LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., September 2, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mrs. Wynnette Kees presented the next agenda item, Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan. Copies of a draft prepared as of May 29, 1998 were given to each Commissioner. The staff met with the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee on June 2 and presented the report. The Department is still working on refining the specific missions, goals, objectives and performance indicators. The final document is due July 1, 1998. The plan

should answer the questions of where are we now, where do we want to be, how do we get there and how do we measure our success. Mrs. Kees then asked the Commission for any comments on whether the plan makes sense and communicates what the Department wants to say. Commissioner Babin asked if a final version would be mailed to each Commissioner, to which Mrs. Kees answered yes.

Mr. Mike Olinde presented **Harvest Information Program (HIP)**. A brief synopsis of the program was provided to each Commissioner. Five points about the program include it being a federally mandated program; 60 percent of the states have already implemented the program and the other states will start this year; the Department did choose to use a stamp and they will be issued free of charge; the Department received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and once the questionnaire and stamps have been distributed to the vendors and Sheriff's offices, the Department's role in HIP is over. The questionnaires will be mailed directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the vendors every two weeks. Commissioner Busbice asked if lifetime license holders would still be required to fill out this information and will it be a long term program? Mr. Olinde stated lifetime license holders are not exempt from this program. A video on HIP was shown at this point. Commissioner Busbice asked if a hunter over 60 years of age is required to participate? Mr. Olinde stated hunters under 16 and over 60 are not required, but can participate for free. Then Commissioner Busbice suggested thinking of what can be done for the lifetime license holders.

A Rule on Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. A Notice of Intent was published in November 1997 on this proposed rule to make state regulations compatible with federal regulations on the harvest of reef fish in offshore waters. Several modifications in the federal regulations have occurred since the Notice of Intent and as such the final rule contains these changes. The Notice of Intent set the red snapper size limit at 16 inches, but the feds changed their minds, so now it will remain at 15 inches. Other minor changes were explained by Mr. Blanchet. Commissioner Babin asked if all the changes have been checked. He then made a motion to accept the Rule and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (Title 76:VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits

for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species

Recreational Bag Limits

* * *

4. Greater amberjack 1 fish per person per day

* * *

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 or any charter

vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of §335 apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial license or permit was issued.

H. <u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limits</u>
1. Red Snapper	15 inches total length
2. Gray, mutton and yellowtail snapper	12 inches total length
3. Lane snapper	8 inches total length
4. Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper	20 inches total length
5. Jewfish	50 inches total length
6. Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (recreational) 36 inches fork length (commercial)
7. Black seabass	8 inches total length
8. Vermillion snapper	10 inches total length

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Headboat - a vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to

be operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or, in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory pelagic fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: (June 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 278 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 170 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 281 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 139 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 392 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 254 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 447 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 190 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 229 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 29 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 84 citations.

SWEP - 53 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 20 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,380.

The aviation report for May 1998 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 124.6 hours for enforcement and 15.3 hours for other divisions.

Major LaCaze then informed the Commission of a case which involved the arrest of four individuals for the theft and illegal sale of a large pen reared white-tailed buck owned by one of the suspect's father. Commissioner McCall then asked about the confiscations on page 15 and if the shrimp were live?

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Division Reports**. Mr. Dave Morrison came forward to **Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design**. The snow goose has been selected hoping it would bring attention to the public on all of the problems with the snow goose. Entries will be accepted from October 26, 1998 to October 30, 1998. Judging will occur on November 4, 1998 and the winning prints will be available at the November Commission Meeting. Over \$5 million has been generated from this program, stated Mr. Morrison. He then stated the Department has just completed a sealed bid auction for Governor's Edition stamps produced for the 1998-99 stamp. Commissioner Babin asked if the snow goose was decided before the video was shown? Chairman Gattle asked if any artist is allowed to submit their entries? Mr. Morrison replied artists need to be domiciled in or native to Louisiana.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **October 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, October 1, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments** and none were heard.

Commissioner Babin made a motion to deviate from the agenda and go into Executive Session to hear about the case, **Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC**. Mr. Puckett stated the motion would be to add this item to the agenda, then a second and a 2/3 majority vote would be needed. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Commissioner Babin then made a motion to go into Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey and it also passed with no opposition.

Reconvening from Executive Session and there being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall.


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Corrections made
6/23/98 - sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Bill Busbice
Danny Babin
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey
Glynn Carver

Assistant Secretary John Roussel was also present.

Commissioner Thomas Kelly was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **May 7, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Public Comments on the 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons**. He began thanking Representative John Smith and Senator James David Cain for coming to the meeting. Senator Cain stated they were representing a group of people from Vernon Parish on a hunting line. Several hunting clubs in a portion of Area 2 wanted to remain in that area, but able to hunt with or without dogs. This change would not affect the T. L. James group. Representative Smith thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and knew they would respond to the needs of the State. He then stated he has spoken with Major LaCaze and the Major may have a solution to this situation. Commissioner Busbice asked if Mr. David Wellman was attending the meeting? Senator Cain stated yes. He then stated there was a letter from the landowners stating they did not have a problem with the change.

Mr. David Wellman stated he contacted 3 different agencies last year and was told this change would not affect his club. But when the hunting pamphlets came out, he found out it did affect them. He asked the Commission to consider letting this area run their dogs during deer season. Chairman Gattle stated it would be appropriate for Mr. Wellman to get with staff of the Wildlife Division and see if there is a solution that could be brought back to the Commission.

Major Keith LaCaze stated the T. L. James group wants to be in Area 2 and designated as still hunting only area. The area being requested by Mr. Wellman includes Highway 8 which could serve as an enforceable boundary line. Commissioner Busbice asked if there

were any other areas within Area 2 that was still hunting only? Chairman Gattle suggested Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions meet and provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated he would look at the map from Mr. Wellman and felt it was strictly a user issue and was not a problem from a biological standpoint. After meeting with the group, Mr. Prickett stated they would probably make a recommendation at the next meeting. He then stated the staff has received a lot of public input on restricting the use of ATVs larger than 400 cc on wildlife management areas. From the comments received, they are in agreement with the reason for the restriction which is habitat damage, but did agree the restriction would fix it. Mr. Prickett then recommended removing that provision from the Notice of Intent and the staff would seek other solutions to the habitat damage problem. Commissioner Babin asked if the Department received a lot of comments putting the limit at 400 cc's? Mr. Prickett stated yes even though there were only a few machines over 400 cc's used during the last hunting season. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to explain the change? Mr. Prickett stated he wanted an indication from the Commission that they do or do not want to make the change. Commissioner Busbice made a motion removing the sentence, "No ATV greater than 400 cc will be permitted for use on the Wildlife Management Areas" from the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it was approved with no opposition. Mr. Don Puckett stated any items taken up before July's final ratification would be amended accordingly.

Mr. Prickett then asked the Commission if they wanted to extend the squirrel season by 7 days which would allow it to run until February 14. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to extend the squirrel season and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. The motion passed with no opposition.

Finally, Mr. Prickett stated it was recommended opening quail season on November 14, but a field trial has been scheduled for that date on Sandy Hollow WMA. He then suggested not opening the quail season on Sandy Hollow until November 16 to accommodate the field trial. Commissioner Busbice made such a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver. Chairman Gattle asked if there were any comments from Enforcement on this change? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated they did not have any problem with the change. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Gattle stated he has been asked to make a presentation to a Department employee for his accomplishments, service and outstanding performance as it relates to Policy #37, Premium Pay for Attainment of Education and Training Credentials. Sandy Dares was presented a one-time cash award of \$500 for attainment of Certificate in Supervisory Techniques and another \$500 for attainment of Certified Public Management Designation under the Comprehensive Public Training Program. Mr. Dares is the

first and only employee to accomplish this, stated Chairman Gattle. He then congratulated Mr. Dares for a job well done.

Mr. Don Puckett handled the next agenda item, **Rule Ratification on Importation of White-Tailed Deer**. The rule is identical to the Declaration of Emergency approved by the Commission at the April meeting. Mr. Puckett read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the resolution. Commissioner Bushice seconded the motion and it passed with Commissioner Hanchey abstaining.

(The full text of the Resolution and Rule is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, as well as to enact rules and regulations for the protection of all game animals within the state, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the propagation, raising, and selling of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens approved by LDAF with concurrence of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and, genetic alteration, and

WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the attached rules regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may prohibit importation of white-tailed deer from additional states when importation from those states may pose a threat to the health of the wildlife resources or citizens of Louisiana.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer - any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without

first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer 6 months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:6(10), (13) and (15), R.S. 56:20 and R.S. 56:171 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: (June 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope was also handled by Mr. Don Puckett. The

Notice of Intent is identical to the Declaration of Emergency passed by the Commission at its April meeting. It establishes hunting seasons for farm raised white-tailed deer and exotics. All of the regulations for hunting are identical to the regulations of wild white-tailed deer. The season for exotics is year round, stated Mr. Puckett. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Babin. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Hanchey.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Notice of Intent to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics--any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer--any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Same as Outside--hunting within an enclosure must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting, as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the specific geographic area in which the enclosure is located.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside, except still hunt only during all segments.

2. Exotics: Year round

3. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Methods of Take

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

D. Shooting Hours

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

E. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: No limit.

F. Hunting Permit and Licenses

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: No person shall take or attempt to take any exotic without possessing an Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50 shall be assessed for each Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

G. Tagging

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Each exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of

Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

H. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

I. Prior Declaration of Emergency. This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this rule.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 36:601, R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:171 et seq., and R.S. 56:651 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. August 5, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing began with Mr. Mike Olinde stating the season was fairly productive. Over 1600 birds were checked at the weigh stations, which represents a 17 percent increase over last season. The birds were checked in 41 parishes and data presented in the report was based on habitat regions. Estimates from these regions included southeast Florida parishes with an increase of 17 percent; western longleaf pine had the greatest increase of about 20 percent; the northwestern shortleaf/lob lolly hardwood had over 500 percent increase over the last 10 years due to restocking efforts, reproduction and better distribution of check stations. On the wildlife management areas, 275 turkeys were checked. Commissioner Carver stated he was impressed with the turkey program. He then stated he has received complaints on the lottery system. He recommended setting up a preferred point system for those hunters not drawn one year. Commissioner Carver felt this should also be

used with the deer lottery and any other lotteries. He asked the staff to look into the point system.

Mr. Olinde then introduced Mr. Paul Ferrell, Regional Director for the National Wild Turkey Federation in Louisiana. Mr. Ferrell briefly gave an update on what the National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter in Louisiana has accomplished since 1990. Approximately \$218,000 has been spent on state property with an additional \$12,000 used to assist the Department in acquiring 40 acres adjoining Sicily Island Hills WMA. The State Chapter has also worked with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and school libraries, youth programs, the Department's Becoming an Outdoors Woman program, and Operation Game Thief. Then Mr. Ferrell asked the Commission to help him draw for the winners of the Remington 870 Express shotguns. The winner for Districts 1, 2 and 3 was Mr. James Miller from Eunice, Louisiana. Mr. Cory Williams from Baskin, Louisiana was the winner from Districts 4, 5 and 6. Then from District 7, the winner was Mr. Burk Jones from Greensburg, Louisiana. Mr. Ferrell then thanked the Commission for their assistance. Commissioner Carver asked where is Greensburg, Louisiana. Mr. Hugh Bateman stated it was in St. Helena Parish about 25 or 30 miles from Baton Rouge. Chairman Gattle thanked Mr. Ferrell for all the work done for the wild turkey restoration in the State and Nation.

A Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation was presented by Mr. Hugh Bateman. This same item was on the June 1997 Commission Meeting agenda and the action taken has kept the regulation on the books. A video put together by Ducks Unlimited documents the ecological damage that overpopulation of snow geese are having on the arctic breeding grounds. Two reasons were given for discussing the repeal the first time and these included, difficulty in enforcing the regulation and how can hunters increase the kill of snow geese by some measure. Mr. Bateman stated there does not appear to be any end in sight in the expansion of the numbers of birds. He then predicted something bad will eventually happen with snow geese and it will affect all species of wildlife that use arctic wetlands for their livelihood. A video was shown at this point in the meeting. Mr. Bateman stated, back in the 1960's there were 400,000 snow geese wintering in Louisiana, now the numbers are about 1,000,000. It will take drastic action on the breeding grounds to control the overpopulation problem and not just a change in rules and regulations for daily hunting procedures. Managers are trying to find a way to move the surplus geese into a useable, sensible control of the population.

Commissioner Hanchey asked how would the specklebellies be protected if goose creeping was allowed? Mr. Bateman stated there was no guarantee that specklebellies would be impacted, but he felt personally, there would not be that much difference. Another suggestion by Mr. Bateman was to try something and then learn as you go along. From what he has seen, Chairman Gattle stated

specklebellies are usually off by themselves away from snow geese. Commissioner Hanchey stated if he would creep, he would creep on the specks and get his limit. Commissioner Carver asked what was the original purpose for the goose creeping regulation? Mr. Bateman felt it was an enforcement effort to control overbagging waterfowl and creeping was chosen as the method to resolve the behavior of certain hunters. He also felt the law was not effective because it was difficult to enforce. Louisiana is the only state to have this regulation on their books. This creeping regulation may also be a tool to address trespass issues, stated Mr. Bateman. He then reminded the Commission the issue of overabundance of snow geese is a serious problem internationally. Commissioner Carver stated the goose creeping regulation was not put in to control population of geese. He then stated he has talked to a lot of farmers that want the regulation kept because of trespassing. Creeping into a flock of geese and killing 4 or 5 as well as crippling dozens of other birds is not sportsmanlike.

Commissioner Carver asked Enforcement if there were any cases made when the regulation was first adopted? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated there were 3 cases made initially and one of the reasons the courts did not prosecute was the vagueness of creeping. The real issue is the bag limits. In the early 1980's, the reputation of hunters taking over the limit of birds was terrifically bad, stated Lt. Col. Clark. The attitudes of duck hunters has dramatically changed over the past few years. The regulation is a lose-lose situation for law enforcement because it is not being enforced for exactly what it is, stated Lt. Col. Clark. Chairman Gattle asked if Enforcement would prosecute for trespassing? Lt. Col. Clark stated this was the wrong agency to come to for trespass regulations. The Louisiana Legislature needed to make a law that could be enforced by all police agencies. Chairman Gattle asked if agents respond to calls on trespassing to which Lt. Col. Clark responded no. Then the Chairman stated shooting over the limit was enforceable, but goose creeping and trespassing can not be enforced. Commissioner Babin stated he did not know what was worse, taking an over the limit or taking the number of birds allowed and just leaving other dead or crippled birds on the ground. Lt. Col. Clark stated that was an assumptive problem. Chairman Babin stated he did not see a difference between a hunter shooting into an enclosed area and those that shoot into a flock of geese and kills over the limit of birds. Lt. Col. Clark stated that was not a righteous comparison. Commissioner Busbice asked if the federal government sets the limits for blue and snow geese? Commissioner Carver asked if the goose creeping regulation could not be enforced or could not be prosecuted? Chairman Gattle told of an incident where hunters were open about creeping. Lt. Col. Clark reminded the Commission that the agents will work where the system supports him. Commissioner Carver asked if the regulation could be "beefed up" so it could be enforced? Lt. Col. Clark stated a solution would be to tie creeping to the hunter that shoots over the limit.

Commissioner Carver asked Mr. Don Puckett if this item could be reconsidered at a later date? Mr. Puckett stated this could be discussed at any time. Commissioner Carver stated he likes the regulation and that it was never aimed to control the goose population. Then he stated it was the agents responsibility to enforce the law and if they would continue to give citations, this would deter goose creeping. Commissioner Babin stated if the problem has been with the language of the law, instead of doing away with the law, the language should be addressed. Commissioner Busbice stated this is a very difficult problem. Then he stated the electronic calls may be an option in the future, but not right now. Then Commissioner Busbice asked Enforcement and Wildlife what would they like the Commission to do with the creeping law, do away with it or keep it? Lt. Col. Clark stated he would like to see the creeping law done away with. Mr. Bateman stated the law is unenforceable and was passed not for biological reasons. Commissioner Busbice then stated the problem is probably trespass which the Commission has no control over. Commissioner Babin stated they were being blind sided by this being a population problem. Mr. Bateman stated creeping could offer to some degree an increase in snow goose harvest. Commissioner Carver asked how would you stay within the federal guidelines? Mr. Bateman stated creeping offers additional opportunity for people to hunt geese. Commissioner Carver again stated this regulation was not put in to control populations. Chairman Gattle stated trespassing exists now as a result of the current law. He then stated this was a Notice of Intent to abolish the law but he was in favor of trying to find language that would work. There will be 120 days to accept public comment on the Notice of Intent whether it is to abolish the law or revamp it. Mr. Puckett stated the Commission could proceed with the Notice of Intent to abolish the law and then amend the Rule to something different as long as it pertains to goose creeping. Commissioner Babin stated he has a problem with the word "abolish", then he asked if another word could be used such as revise or address. Commissioner McCall stated what the Commission is doing is seeing what the public really wants. Commissioner Carver stated he has a problem with the word "abolish" also. Mr. Puckett stated on every proposed Notice of Intent there is included what the final results may look like. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission has to give Notice of Intent in some way and in theory, the law will be gutted to make it fit Enforcement and Wildlife Divisions. Commissioner Babin stated, for the record, he opposes the word "abolish", and if the vote for final ratification is to abolish the rule, he will vote no then. He agreed to go along with the Notice of Intent as long as the public understood it was not to abolish the law, but to open it for discussion. Commissioner Busbice stated he would like to hear the public comments and possibly come up with a compromise. Commissioner Babin stated if this has been a problem for 10 years, it was now time to solve it. Then he made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Commissioner Carver asked if the Commission would have the opportunity to revise the regulation? Commissioner

Babin stated this action was only to let the public know that goose creeping can be discussed for the next 120 days. Chairman Gattle then asked for public comments.

Mr. Dwight Munchrath, Lafayette, representing his family that owns land in the arctic wintering grounds, stated the critical issue of the arctic habitat has been documented. He then stated, "the Arctic Goose Habitat Workgroup recommends under the hunting methods, removal of the restrictions of hunting techniques such as electronic calls, baiting and creeping to manage this resource". Then Mr. Munchrath stated he was extremely disappointed in the vote taken last year on this issue.

Mr. Carl Gremillion asked Commissioner Carver if he had a problem with stalking any other animal besides geese? Then he stated he was in favor of abolishing the law. Mr. Gremillion felt the Commission was trying to avoid voting on the regulation because of what people say. He then told the Commissioners they need to determine what is right or wrong and then take the flack. Commissioner Busbice stated Mr. Gremillion's remark was not a fair statement. Commissioner Babin mentioned State statutes regulate what the Commission can do. Then he stated, his motion allows them to come up with a solution to the problem. Chairman Gattle stated he wanted to hear Mr. Gremillion's comments and not have a question and answer session.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Crowley, stated he was representing a group of people put together by the Commission in 1994 that has dealt with this problem. He was one of the people who wrote the original statute and trespassing was part of the problem. The problem of overpopulation is not in southwest Louisiana, there are not that many birds in that area any more. Any type of additional shooting pressure will run the remaining birds out of the area, stated Mr. Boudreaux. Mr. Boudreaux felt a majority of the people requesting the regulation be abolished are not directly involved with the problem. Creeping of geese in Louisiana will have a minimal affect on what needs to be done. Several meetings were held with Col. Winton Vidrine and Mr. Johnnie Tarver last year on re-writing a new regulation and about 5 or 6 draft recommendations have come about. Mr. Boudreaux asked the Commission to not abolish the regulation, but replace or amend it to make it a stronger regulation.

Mr. Wilson Thibodaux, from southwest Louisiana, stated he was effective in getting the law passed, but realizes now it was a mistake. He then stated he was in favor of abolishing the law.

Chairman Gattle stated there was a motion and second to give Notice of Intent on creeping and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to abolish the regulation that prohibits goose creeping.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 3. Wild Birds

§307. Goose Creeping

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:547 (August 1988), repealed LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., September 2, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Mrs. Wynnette Kees presented the next agenda item, **Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan**. Copies of a draft prepared as of May 29, 1998 were given to each Commissioner. The staff met with the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee on June 2 and presented the report. The Department is still working on refining the specific missions, goals, objectives and performance indicators. The final document is due July 1, 1998. The plan

should answer the questions of where are we now, where do we want to be, how do we get there and how do we measure our success. Mrs. Kees then asked the Commission for any comments on whether the plan makes sense and communicates what the Department wants to say. Commissioner Babin asked if a final version would be mailed to each Commissioner, to which Mrs. Kees answered yes.

Mr. Mike Olinde presented **Harvest Information Program (HIP)**. A brief synopsis of the program was provided to each Commissioner. Five points about the program include it being a federally mandated program; 60 percent of the states have already implemented the program and the other states will start this year; the Department did choose to use a stamp and they will be issued free of charge; the Department received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and once the questionnaire and stamps have been distributed to the vendors and Sheriff's offices, the Department's role in HIP is over. The questionnaires will be mailed directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the vendors every two weeks. Commissioner Busbice asked if lifetime license holders would still be required to fill out this information and will it be a long term program? Mr. Olinde stated lifetime license holders are not exempt from this program. A video on HIP was shown at this point. Commissioner Busbice asked if a hunter over 60 years of age is required to participate? Mr. Olinde stated hunters under 16 and over 60 are not required, but can participate for free. Then Commissioner Busbice suggested thinking of what can be done for the lifetime license holders.

A Rule on Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. A Notice of Intent was published in November 1997 on this proposed rule to make state regulations compatible with federal regulations on the harvest of reef fish in offshore waters. Several modifications in the federal regulations have occurred since the Notice of Intent and as such the final rule contains these changes. The Notice of Intent set the red snapper size limit at 16 inches, but the feds changed their minds, so now it will remain at 15 inches. Other minor changes were explained by Mr. Blanchet. Commissioner Babin asked if all the changes have been checked. He then made a motion to accept the Rule and it was seconded by Commissioner Busbice. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Rule is made a part of the record.)

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (Title 76:VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits

for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species

Recreational Bag Limits

* * *

4. Greater amberjack 1 fish per person per day

* * *

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 or any charter

vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of §335 apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial license or permit was issued.

H.	<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Size Limits</u>
1.	Red Snapper	15 inches total length
2.	Gray, mutton and yellowtail snapper	12 inches total length
3.	Lane snapper	8 inches total length
4.	Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper	20 inches total length
5.	Jewfish	50 inches total length
6.	Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (recreational) 36 inches fork length (commercial)
7.	Black seabass	8 inches total length
8.	Vermillion snapper	10 inches total length

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Headboat - a vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to

be operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or, in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory pelagic fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: (June 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 278 citations.
Region II - Monroe - 170 citations.
Region III - Alexandria - 281 citations.
Region IV - Ferriday - 139 citations.
Region V - Lake Charles - 392 citations.
Region VI - Opelousas - 254 citations.
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 447 citations.
Region VIII - New Orleans - 190 citations.
Region IX - Thibodaux - 229 citations.
Oyster Strike Force - 29 citations.
Statewide Strike Force - 84 citations.
SWEP - 53 citations.
Seafood Investigation Unit - 20 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,380.

The aviation report for May 1998 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 124.6 hours for enforcement and 15.3 hours for other divisions.

Major LaCaze then informed the Commission of a case which involved the arrest of four individuals for the theft and illegal sale of a large pen reared white-tailed buck owned by one of the suspect's father. Commissioner McCall then asked about the confiscations on page 15 and if the shrimp were live?

Chairman Gattle then asked for **Division Reports**. Mr. Dave Morrison came forward to **Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design**. The snow goose has been selected hoping it would bring attention to the public on all of the problems with the snow goose. Entries will be accepted from October 26, 1998 to October 30, 1998. Judging will occur on November 4, 1998 and the winning prints will be available at the November Commission Meeting. Over \$5 million has been generated from this program, stated Mr. Morrison. He then stated the Department has just completed a sealed bid auction for Governor's Edition stamps produced for the 1998-99 stamp. Commissioner Babin asked if the snow goose was decided before the video was shown? Chairman Gattle asked if any artist is allowed to submit their entries? Mr. Morrison replied artists need to be domiciled in or native to Louisiana.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **October 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, October 1, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked if there were any **Public Comments** and none were heard.

Commissioner Babin made a motion to deviate from the agenda and go into Executive Session to hear about the case, **Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC**. Mr. Puckett stated the motion would be to add this item to the agenda, then a second and a 2/3 majority vote would be needed. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Commissioner Babin then made a motion to go into Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey and it also passed with no opposition.

Reconvening from Executive Session and there being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

The Advocate ONLINE

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Published on 6/5/98 Archived on 6/5/98

LWFC opens public comment period on plan to abolish anti-geese creeping regulation

By **JOE MACALUSO**

Advocate outdoors writer

Louisiana waterfowl hunters and conservation and sportsmen's groups will have the next 120 days to voice their views over the state's anti-geese creeping regulation.

The controversial 10-year-old regulation, which outlawed the long-used practice of sneaking up on flocks of geese feeding in wide-open agricultural areas, came under review Thursday at a Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting.

On a 6-0 vote, the commission approved a notice of intent to abolish the regulation. Commissioners Glynn Carver of Many and Daniel Babin of Houma said the final vote on the issue will come at the Oct. 1 meeting. Both commissioners said they back the regulation but acknowledged the opposition by state waterfowl biologists and Enforcement Division agents.

Wildlife Division Administrator Hugh Bateman told the LWFC that Louisiana hunters need to take more snow geese when the geese migrate into the state. He said snow geese have overpopulated their Arctic spring/summer nesting areas and explained that the species faces starvation and the possibility of decimation by an avian disease.

Carver and Babin said they will support a rewriting of the regulation through language that would allow for better enforcement and prosecution of creeping violations.

The LWFC also approved regulations for importing whitetail deer into the state and hunting farm-raised whitetail deer, other exotic deer and antelope.

The regulations do not allow wild whitetail deer to be enclosed in high fences and limits hunting of farm-raised whitetails to the approved deer hunting seasons of the surrounding area.

Also approved were fishing regulations to bring the state in line with federal regulations.

The new rules allows recreational anglers the possession of one greater amberjack and set new minimum-size limits on amberjack, snapper, grouper, jewfish and seabass.

The new regulations maintain the 15-inch minimum on red snapper. Earlier in the year, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a 16-inch minimum size on the species. State marine biologist Harry Blanchet said the NMFS backed off the 16-inch rule.

In other action, wildlife biologist Mike Olinde said voluntary check station reports for the spring turkey season showed increases in 41 parishes and decreased harvest in 15 parishes while two parishes stayed the same as 1997.

Overall, 1,631 turkeys were reported killed, along with 275 from the state's wildlife management areas, compared with 220 in 1997.

The Enforcement Division reported 2,380 citations written in May, most of them for boating and fishing violations.

The commission also set an Oct. 1 meeting date.

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WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting of 6/04/98
9:15 a.m.

Members present: Chairman Tom Gattle, Commissioner Bill Busbice, Commissioner Jerald Hanchey and Commissioner Norman McCall.

Other persons present: Ron Couvillion, Wynnette Kees

A summary of the current status of the Department's appropriation was given to committee members. This was the same as was discussed at the last committee meeting except that \$90,000 and 3 positions were amended back into the Wildlife Program.

Chairman Gattle called attention to the figures for prior year actual expenses, current year budget, total request for next year, and the appropriation.

Commissioner Busbice asked for a definition of "attrition", and it was explained to him that this relates to rate of turnover in staff.

Chairman Gattle inquired as to whether any progress was being made on collecting the older outstanding civil fines. No change has occurred since last meeting.

Mr. Couvillion explained the supplemental appropriation being processed for \$2 million for acquisitions.

Other subjects discussed included: the planned automated licensing system is not part of the current budget request; impact of H.I.P. on lifetime licenses; feasibilities of raising license fees; statute mandating biennial review of fees; funding and annual budget of the Booker Fowler Hatchery; the Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Hawkins, Susan

From: Kees, Wynnette
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 1998 3:02 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: budget subcommittee

Here are the minutes from the Commission budget subcommittee meeting this morning.



Doc1.wpd

<WP Attachment Enclosed>

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, June 4, 1998
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Tom Gattle (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Tom Kelly	<u> </u>	<u>✓</u>
Daniel Babin	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Glynn Carver	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Bill Busbice	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.

~~Secretary Jenkins~~ is also present.

Assistant Secretary Roussel

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 4, 1998
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
- ✓3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
- ✓4. Rule Ratification - Importation of White-Tailed Deer - Fred Kimmel
- ✓5. Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope - Fred Kimmel
- ✓6. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing - Danny Timmer
- ✓7. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation - Hugh Bateman
- ✓8. Harvest Information Program (HIP) - Mike Olinde
- ✓9. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Harry Blanchet
- ✓10. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
- ✓11. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Winton Vidrine
- ✓12. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design - Dave Morrison
- ✓13. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
- ✓14. Public Comments
15. Adjourn

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 4, 1998
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Rule Ratification - Importation of White-Tailed Deer - Fred Kimmel
5. Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope - Fred Kimmel
6. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing - Danny Timmer
7. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation - Hugh Bateman
8. Harvest Information Program (HIP) - Mike Olinde
9. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Harry Blanchet
10. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
11. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Winton Vidrine
12. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design - Dave Morrison
13. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
14. Public Comments
15. Adjourn

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

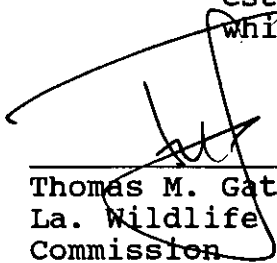
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

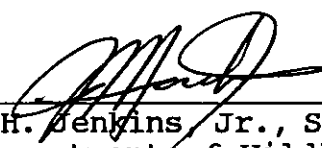
WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Notice of Intent to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics--any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer--any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Same as Outside--hunting within an enclosure must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting,

as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the specific geographic area in which the enclosure is located.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside, except still hunt only during all segments.

2. Exotics: Year round

3. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Methods of Take

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

D. Shooting Hours

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

E. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: No limit.

F. Hunting Permit and Licenses

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: No person shall take or attempt to take any exotic without possessing an Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50 shall be assessed for each Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

G. Tagging

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: Each exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

H. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

I. Prior Declaration of Emergency. This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and

exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this rule,

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 36:601, R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:171 et seq., and R.S. 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. August 5, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, as well as to enact rules and regulations for the protection of all game animals within the state, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the propagation, raising, and selling of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens approved by LDAF with concurrence of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and, genetic alteration, and

WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

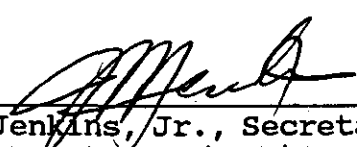
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the attached rules regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may prohibit importation of white-tailed deer from additional states when importation from those states may pose a threat to the health of the wildlife resources or citizens of Louisiana.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer - any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota or Wyoming. This shall

include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer 6 months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:6(10), (13) and (15), R.S. 56:20 and R.S. 56:171 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, as well as to enact rules and regulations for the protection of all game animals within the state, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the propagation, raising, and selling of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens approved by LDAF with concurrence of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and, genetic alteration, and

WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the attached rules regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may prohibit importation of white-tailed deer from additional states when importation from those states may pose a threat to the health of the wildlife resources or citizens of Louisiana.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer - any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota or Wyoming. This shall

include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer 6 months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7, R.S. 56:6(10), (13) and (15), R.S. 56:20 and R.S. 56:171 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

June 4, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, June 4, 1998.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Notice of Intent to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R. S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics--any animal of the family Bovidae (except the Tribe Bovini [cattle]) or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, axis deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer--any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure for which a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Same as Outside--hunting within an enclosure must conform to applicable statutes and rules governing hunting and deer hunting,

as provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and as established annually by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission for the specific geographic area in which the enclosure is located.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside, except still hunt only during all segments.

2. Exotics: Year round

3. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Methods of Take

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: Exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

D. Shooting Hours

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.

2. Exotics: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

E. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: No limit.

F. Hunting Permit and Licenses

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: No person shall take or attempt to take any exotic without possessing an Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50 shall be assessed for each Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

G. Tagging

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: Same as outside.
2. Exotics: Each exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times.

H. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

I. Prior Declaration of Emergency. This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and

exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this rule.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with Louisiana Constitution, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 36:601, R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:171 et seq., and R.S. 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 24: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. August 5, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

1998 TURKEY HARVEST UPDATE

The turkey hunters in Louisiana experienced a very productive spring 1998 turkey hunting season based on conversations with hunters and voluntary check station data. One thousand six hundred thirty-one (1631) birds were reported at the approximately 150 voluntary weigh stations this year (Tables 1 and 2). Of the forty-one (41) parishes reporting data via check stations, twenty-four (24) parishes indicated an increase over 1997, fifteen (15) indicated a decrease, and two (2) remained the same.

For analysis purposes, the state was divided into 5 regions based on historical habitat/geology (Figure 1). These include Northwest Loblolly/Shortleaf/Hardwood, North Mississippi Delta, Western Longleaf Pine, Atchafalaya and South Mississippi Delta, and Southeast Loblolly. The number of turkeys checked increased in 4 of the 5 regions. The Southeast Loblolly Region recorded the greatest number of turkeys in 1998. However, the most dramatic increase during the 1989-1998 period has occurred in the Northwest Loblolly/Shortleaf/ Hardwood region with an increase from 52 turkeys reported in 1989 to 506 turkeys reported in 1998 (Figure 2). This is due to a number of factors but primarily to substantial acreages of new areas open to hunting resulting from successful restocking efforts. Excellent production and more and better distributed check stations in the region the past few years also contributed to the increase. Other regions have been relatively stable since 1991. Also of note is the disparity among adult and juvenile percentages among regions. In the southern half the state, the percent adult is about 90 while the percent adult is about 70 in the west and northwest.

Two hundred and seventy-five (275) turkeys were harvested in 1998 on the 22 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that had spring turkey hunting. This was an increase of 55 turkeys over the number harvested in 1997. However, on areas open both years, about a 15% decrease in

decrease in harvest was observed. The 1998 harvest on WMAs was better than 1996, a year when most areas were also open (Table 3).

Data presented are only from check stations except for the WMA information. The Department index to the turkey harvest is determined through its annual Big and Small Game Harvest Survey and will not be available until next year. However, a higher number reported at the check stations usually correlates with a higher number of turkeys harvested statewide. Based on our statewide harvest surveys, check stations record approximately 15% of our estimated turkey harvest.

Table 1. 1998 spring turkey harvest report at voluntary weigh stations in Louisiana by historic habitat/geological regions.

Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
-----Northwest Loblolly/Shortleaf/Hardwood-----			
Bienville	55	37 (67%)	18 (33%)
Bossier	32	26 (81%)	6 (19%)
Caddo	1	0	1 (100%)
Caldwell	12	10 (83%)	2 (17%)
Claiborne	93	60 (65%)	33 (35%)
DeSoto	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Jackson	32	24 (75%)	8 (25%)
LaSalle	21	11 (52%)	10 (48%)
Lincoln	54	35 (65%)	19 (35%)
Red River	0	0	0
Union	179	142 (79%)	37 (21%)
Webster	<u>23</u>	<u>20 (87%)</u>	<u>3 (13%)</u>
Total	506	368 (73%)	138 (27%)
-----North Mississippi Delta-----			
Catahoula	11	10 (91%)	1 (9%)
Concordia	62	51 (82%)	11 (18%)
East Carroll	0	0	0
Franklin	1	0	1 (100%)
Madison	12	8 (67%)	4 (33%)
Morehouse	25	19 (76%)	6 (24%)
Ouachita	3	3 (100%)	0
Richland	0	0	0
Tensas	22	8 (36%)	14 (64%)
West Carroll	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	136	99 (77%)	37 (23%)
-----Western Longleaf Pine-----			
Allen	0	0	0
Beauregard	9	7 (78%)	2 (22%)
Calcasieu	2	2 (100%)	0
Evangeline	0	0	0
Grant	51	30 (59%)	21 (41%)

(Continued)

Table 1. Continued.

Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
Jefferson Davis	0	0	0
Natchitoches	44	28 (64%)	16 (36%)
Rapides	48	36 (75%)	12 (25%)
Sabine	17	9 (53%)	8 (47%)
Vernon	61	49 (80%)	12 (20%)
Winn	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	232	161 (69%)	71 (31%)
-----Atchafalaya and South Mississippi Delta-----			
Ascension	7	7 (100%)	0
Avoyelles	22	21 (95%)	1 (5%)
Iberville	66	63 (95%)	3 (5%)
Point Coupee	29	25 (86%)	4 (14%)
St. Landry	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
St. Martin	4	4 (100%)	0
West Baton Rouge	<u>24</u>	<u>20 (83%)</u>	<u>4 (17%)</u>
Total	156	142 (91%)	14 (8%)
-----Southeast Loblolly-----			
East Baton Rouge	9	8 (89%)	1 (11%)
East Feliciana	39	35 (90%)	4 (10%)
Livingston	131	116 (89%)	15 (11%)
St. Helena	93	87 (94%)	6 (6%)
St. Tammany	32	29 (91%)	3 (9%)
Tangipahoa	35	28 (80%)	7 (20%)
Washington	209	187 (89%)	22 (11%)
West Feliciana	<u>53</u>	<u>49 (92%)</u>	<u>4 (8%)</u>
Total	601	539 (90%)	62 (10%)

Table 2. Turkey harvest reported in Louisiana during the 1998 hunting season at voluntary weigh stations by LDWF districts.

Parish	Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
-----District 1-----			
Caddo	1	0	1 (100%)
Bossier	32	26 (81%)	6 (19%)
Webster	23	20 (87%)	3 (13%)
DeSoto	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Red River	0	0	0
Bienville	55	37 (67%)	18 (33%)
Claiborne	93	60 (65%)	33 (35%)
Total	208	146 (70%)	62 (30%)
-----District 2-----			
E. Carroll	closed		
Lincoln	54	35 (65%)	19 (35%)
Ouachita	3	3 (100%)	0
Union	179	142 (79%)	37 (21%)
Morehouse	25	19 (76%)	6 (24%)
Jackson	32	24 (75%)	8 (25%)
Total	293	223 (76%)	70 (24%)
-----District 3-----			
Grant	51	30 (59%)	21 (41%)
Natchitoches	44	28 (64%)	16 (36%)
Rapides	48	36 (75%)	12 (25%)
Sabine	17	9 (53%)	8 (47%)
LaSalle	<u>21</u>	<u>11 (52%)</u>	<u>10 (48%)</u>
Total	181	114 (63%)	67 (37%)
-----District 4-----			
Caldwell	12	10 (83%)	2 (17%)
Catahoula	11	10 (91%)	1 (9%)
Concordia	62	51 (82%)	11 (18%)
Franklin	1	0	1 (100%)
Madison	12	8 (67%)	4 (33%)
Tensas	<u>22</u>	<u>8 (36%)</u>	<u>14 (64%)</u>
Total	120	87 (80%)	33 (20%)
-----District 5-----			
Allen	0	0	0
Beauregard	9	7 (78%)	2 (22%)
Vernon	61	49 (80%)	12 (20%)
Calcasieu	<u>2</u>	<u>2 (100%)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	72	58 (81%)	14 (19%)

(Continued)

Table 2. Continued

Parish	Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
<hr/> District 6 <hr/>			
Avoyelles	22	21 (95%)	1 (5%)
Iberville	66	63 (95%)	3 (5%)
Point Coupee	29	25 (86%)	4 (14%)
St. Landry	4	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
St. Martin	4	4 (100%)	0
W. Baton Rouge	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u> (83%)	<u>4</u> (17%)
Total	149	135 (91%)	14 (9%)
<hr/> District 7 <hr/>			
Ascension	7	7 (100%)	0
E. Baton Rouge	9	8 (49%)	1 (11%)
E. Feliciana	39	35 (90%)	4 (10%)
W. Feliciana	53	49 (92%)	4 (8%)
Livingston	131	116 (89%)	15 (11%)
St. Helena	93	87 (94%)	6 (6%)
St. Tammany	32	29 (91%)	3 (9%)
Tangipahoa	35	28 (80%)	7 (20%)
Washington	<u>209</u>	<u>187</u> (89%)	<u>22</u> (11%)
Total	608	546 (90%)	62 (10%)
<hr/>			
Statewide Totals	1,631	1,309 (80.2%)	324 (19.8%)

Table 3. Turkey harvest on the wildlife management areas from 1996-1998.

WMA	1996	1997	1998
Ben's Creek	21	24	32
Big Lake	10	12	12
Bodcau	20	29	21
Boeuf	3	3	2
Boise Vernon	8	15	3
Camp Beauregard	2	6	3
Dewey Wills	16	Closed	4
Fort Polk	8	19	14
Georgia-Pacific	16	13	11
Grassy Lake	5	Closed	10
Jackson Bienville	13	12	26
Little River	1	Closed	0
Loggy Bayou	4	2	1
Pearl River	7	5	6
Peason Ridge	1	0	1
Pomme de Terre	3	Closed	4
Red River/ Three Rivers	41	Closed	61
Sabine	Closed	Closed	8
Sandy Hollow	7	4	7
Sherburne	42	60	40
Sicily Island Hills	Closed	12	6
Tunic Hills	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	231	220	275

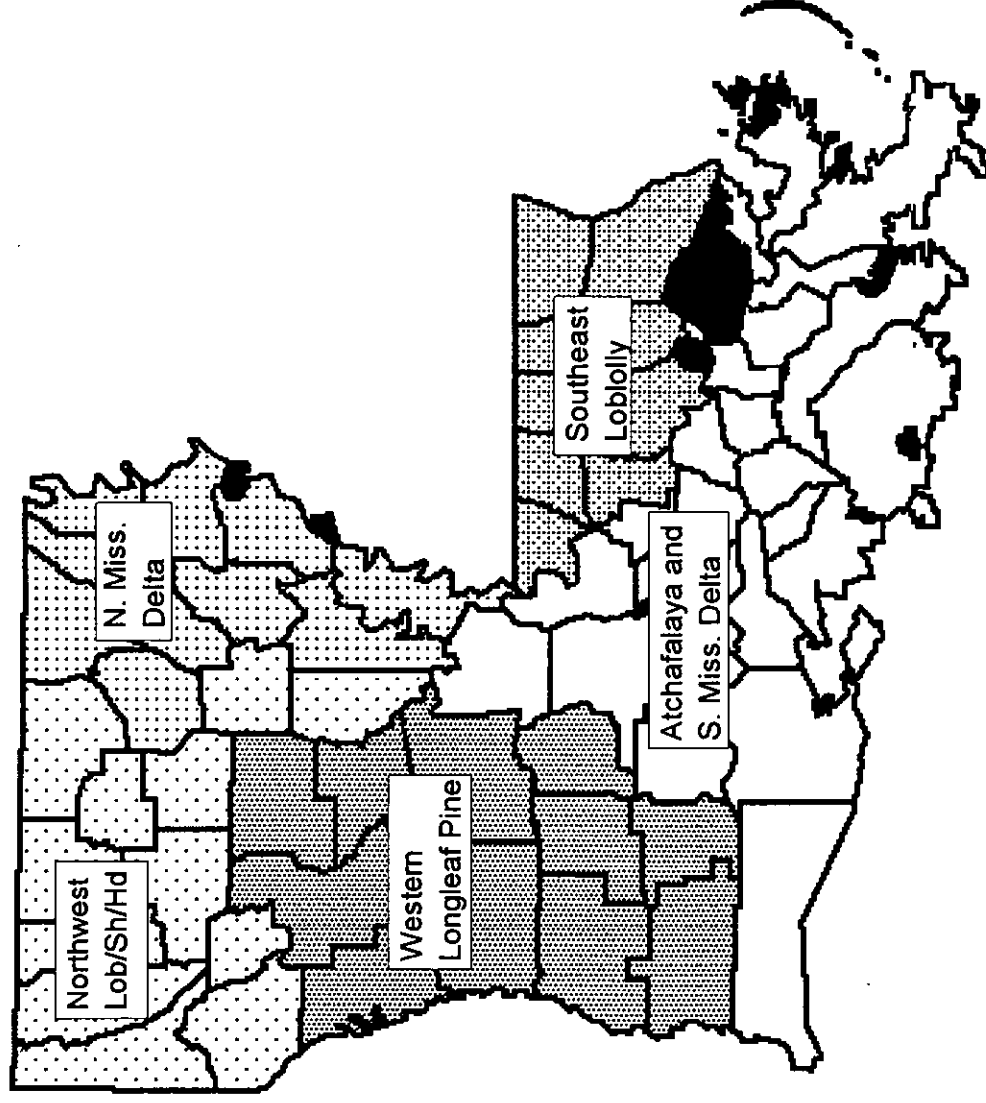


Figure 1

Gobblers Recorded At Voluntary Check Stations

1989 -1998

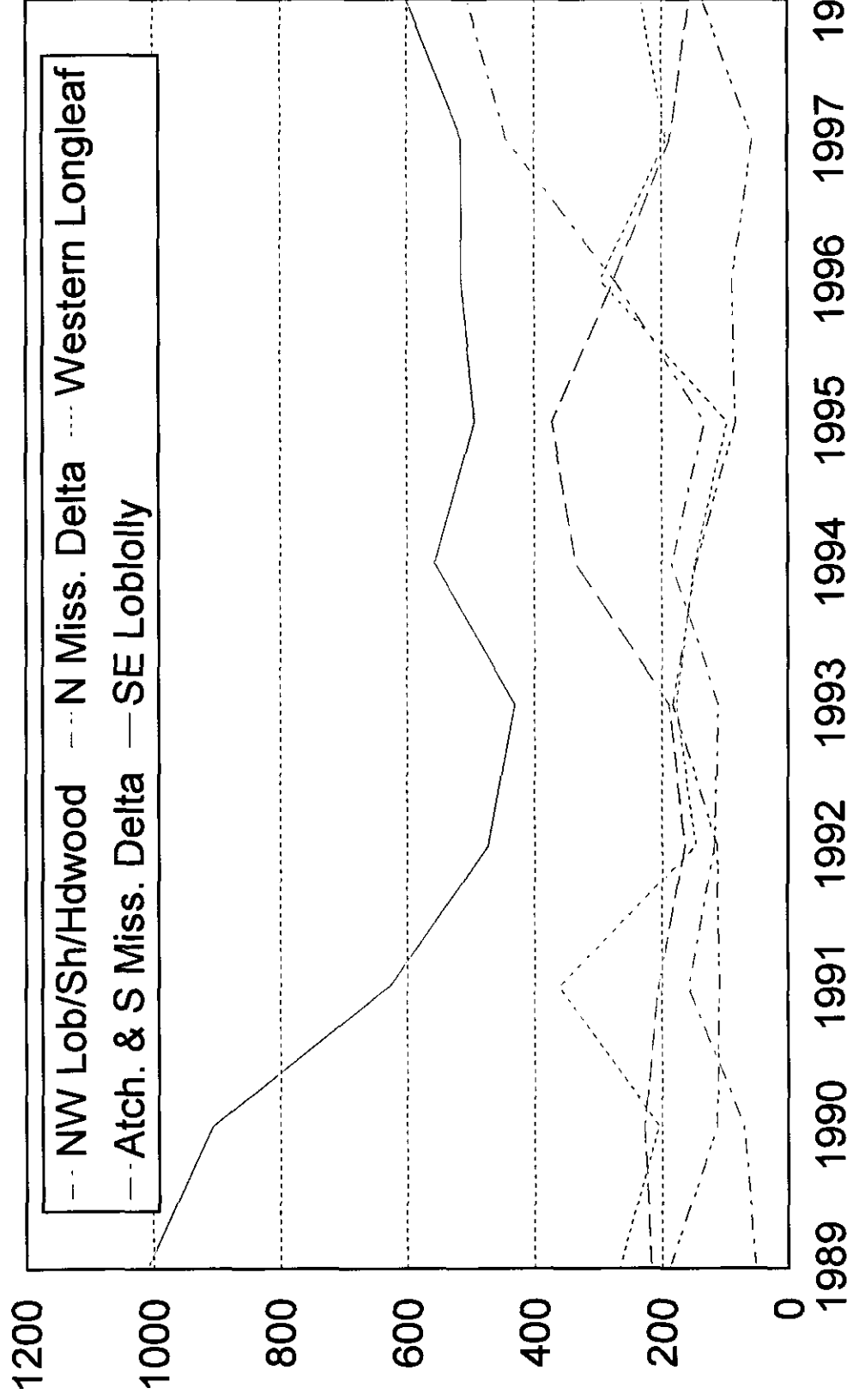


Figure 2

Louisiana Chapter - NWTF
Report to LDWF Commission - 1998

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
1990	education	\$ 3,600.00		printing of LA wild turkey publication
1994	education	\$ 364.00		printing of pocket hunting calendars & dates
1995	education	\$ 106.00		print hunter surveys for Jackson-Bienville & Bodcau WMA's
1995	education	\$ 3,928.00		display for educational activities
1998	education	\$ 400.00		NWTF technical bulletins for LDWF "Train the Trainer" Workshop
1998	education	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,898.00	support of LDWF "Train the Trainer" teacher workshop
1994	equipment	\$ 289.00		utility trailer for turkey trapping
1994	equipment	\$ 1,816.00		walkie-talkie radios for turkey trapping
1996	equipment	\$ 425.00	\$ 2,530.00	fertilizer & seed spreader for Tunica Hills WMA
1991	habitat enhancement	\$ 74.00		clover seed for wildlife openings on Alex. State Forest WMA
1992	habitat enhancement	\$ 1,623.00		750 lbs chufa seed for planting on State WMA's
1993	habitat enhancement	\$ 4,633.00		2000 lbs chufa seed for planting on State WMA's
1993	habitat enhancement	\$ 583.00		200 lbs chufa seed for planting on State WMA's
1993	habitat enhancement	\$ 3,920.00		habitat enhancement project on Bodcau WMA
1993	habitat enhancement	\$ 252.00		seed for wildlife openings on Camp Beauregard WMA
1994	habitat enhancement	\$ 4,703.00		2000 lbs chufa seed for planting on State WMA's
1994	habitat enhancement	\$ 2,382.00		seed & fertilizer for plantings on Jackson-Bienville WMA
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 3,264.00		acorns & other seed for reforestation project on 9700 acre tract
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 3,542.00		2000 lbs chufa seed for planting on State WMA's
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 280.00		American elm seed for planting on State WMA's
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 1,456.00		tree seed for planting on State WMA's
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 2,000.00		fertilizer for Jackson-Bienville WMA
1995	habitat enhancement	\$ 5,000.00		establish wildlife openings on Grassy Lake WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$ 5,700.00		planting of 114 acres to enhance wildlife habitat on Boef WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$ 3,150.00		reforestation of 114 acres of agriculture land on Boef WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$ 6,335.00		36,200 seedlings for reforestation on Boef WMA
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 30.00		fertilizer for wildlife openings on Tunica Hills WMA
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 7,300.00		construction & installation of 15 gates on Sabine WMA
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 445.00		500 wildlife check station signs
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 1,462.00		planting willow oak seedlings on 33 acres of Boef WMA
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 1,353.00		labor to plant 12,000 seedlings on Boef WMA
1997	habitat enhancement	\$ 5,000.00		tree seed to plant 50 acres on Boef WMA
1998	habitat enhancement	\$ 625.00	\$ 65,112.00	purchase of Cherry Bark Oak seedlings for Boef WMA
1995	management	\$ 1,200.00		reward signs for State WMA's
1995	management	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	6 large "turkey habitat improvement" signs for State WMA's
1989	replacement cost	\$ 15,000.00		30 turkeys from SC
1989	replacement cost	\$ 1,204.00		shipping fee for 31 turkeys from SC to LA
1989	replacement cost	\$ 488.00		390 wild turkey transport boxes
1991	replacement cost	\$ 9,000.00		18 turkeys from AL
1992	replacement cost	\$ 5,000.00		10 turkeys from AL
1992	replacement cost	\$ 250.00		NWTF Target 2000 administration fee for 10 turkeys from AL
1993	replacement cost	\$ 5,500.00		11 turkeys from AL
1993	replacement cost	\$ 17,325.00		33 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$ 5,000.00		10 turkeys from AR
1993	replacement cost	\$ 16,900.00		34 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$ 5,000.00		10 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$ 5,775.00		11 turkeys from WI
1994	replacement cost	\$ 115.00		shipping fee for 3 turkeys from CT to LA
1994	replacement cost	\$ 513.00		shipping fee for 14 turkeys from CT to LA
1994	replacement cost	\$ 2,500.00		5 turkeys from AR

Louisiana Chapter - NWTF
Report to LDWF Commission - 1998

1994	replacement cost	\$ 8,300.00		17 turkeys from CT
1994	replacement cost	\$ 8,000.00		12 turkeys from AL
1994	replacement cost	\$ 850.00		NWTF Target 2000 administration fee for 34 turkeys
1995	replacement cost	\$ 3,500.00		7 turkeys from AR
1995	replacement cost	\$ 8,000.00		16 turkeys from AL
1995	replacement cost	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	10 turkeys from AL
1996	replacement cost	\$ 659.00		shipping fee for 12 turkeys from Iowa
1996	replacement cost	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 127,879.00	12 turkeys from Iowa
1991	rewards	\$ 914.00		2000 wild turkey reward signs
1991	rewards	\$ 300.00		reward payment
1991	rewards	\$ 600.00		2 reward payments
1992	rewards	\$ 300.00		reward payment
1993	rewards	\$ 860.00		2000 wild turkey reward signs
1996	rewards	\$ 3,600.00		support of Operation Game Thief (LA Chapter)
1998	rewards	\$ 471.00		1000 wild turkey reward signs
1998	rewards	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 9,145.00	reward payment

Total expenditures on LDWF projects: \$ 217,964.00

Sicily Island Hills WMA land acquisition project:

 LWTF provided \$12,000 to assist LDWF purchase of 40 acre timbered tract adjoining Sicily Island WMA

USFS expenditures in Louisiana:

Kisatchie National Forest wild turkey management projects:

 Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation \$137,361.00

 USFS Challenge Grant Matching Program \$137,361.00

Total expenditures on Louisiana National Forests \$274,722.00

US Fish & Wildlife Project support:

 Mollicy Farms reforestation project (16,000 acres on upper Ouachita River)

 \$10,000 per year for five years \$50,000.00

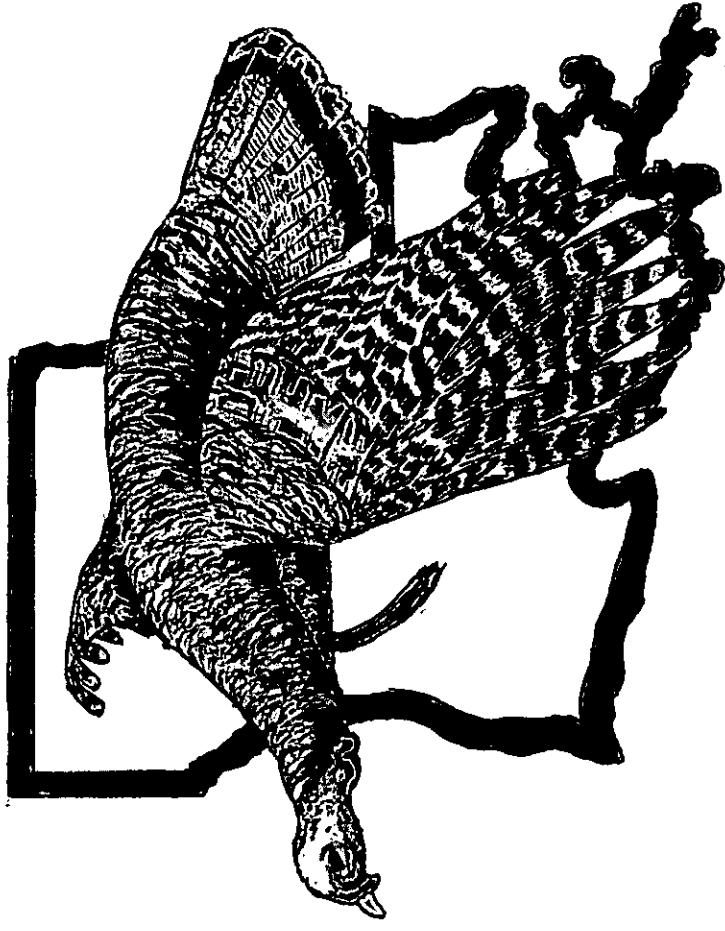
Other contributions to Louisiana by LWTF include:

- donation of 130 Wildlife Forever CD Rom's to Louisiana schools & libraries
- hosts of JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, & Sportsmanship) Youth Programs in Louisiana
- support of LDWF "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" Program
- host of NWTF's new "Women in the Outdoors" Program regional workshop
- 7th in the Nation in support of game thief reward programs
- sponsor of "JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime" turkey hunt for two kids per year @ IP's North Fork Lodge
- sponsor of two kids to attend Porter Waggoner Youth Conservation Field Days in Edgefield, SC

About the NWTF: In the last 25 years, nearly \$78 million NWTF and cooperator dollars have been spent on on projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout the United States and Mexico. In 1973 there were an estimated 1.3 million wild turkeys and 1.5 million turkey hunters. Today, there are an estimated 4.2 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.5 million turkey hunters.

The NWTF is a 180,000 member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states and 11 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private, and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional American sport.

Chapter Name	Gross	Net	Net/Net	%	56%	24%	15%	4%	1%
1 North Central Louisiana	\$ 24,522.00	\$ 17,138.78	\$ 9,061.46	70%	\$ 6,068.82	\$ 2,172.35	\$ 1,357.72	\$ 362.06	\$ 90.51
2 Northwest Louisiana	\$ 54,415.00	\$ 32,738.78	\$ 14,873.96	61%	\$ 8,329.42	\$ 3,569.75	\$ 2,231.09	\$ 594.96	\$ 148.74
3 Cajun Long Spurs	\$ 56,365.00	\$ 35,710.26	\$ 22,316.97	73%	\$ 12,497.60	\$ 5,356.07	\$ 3,347.55	\$ 892.68	\$ 223.17
4 Twin City Longbeards	\$ 34,079.00	\$ 20,632.00	\$ 8,396.95	60%	\$ 4,896.89	\$ 2,012.87	\$ 1,258.04	\$ 335.48	\$ 83.87
5 SE LA Long Beards	\$ 19,875.00	\$ 10,708.74	\$ 6,446.18	55%	\$ 3,809.86	\$ 1,547.08	\$ 986.93	\$ 257.85	\$ 64.46
6 SW LA Turkey Trackers	\$ 25,746.00	\$ 20,126.41	\$ 14,174.95	79%	\$ 7,837.87	\$ 3,401.99	\$ 2,126.24	\$ 567.00	\$ 141.75
7 Ksatchie Strutters	\$ 20,459.00	\$ 9,220.21	\$ 5,397.68	46%	\$ 3,022.70	\$ 1,295.44	\$ 809.65	\$ 215.91	\$ 53.98
8 SE LA Swamp Gobblers	\$ 9,170.00	\$ 1,402.86	\$ 576.18	16%	\$ 322.86	\$ 136.28	\$ 86.43	\$ 23.05	\$ 5.76
9 Delta Longbeards	\$ 14,430.00	\$ 6,077.49	\$ 4,060.87	43%	\$ 2,274.09	\$ 974.61	\$ 609.13	\$ 162.43	\$ 40.61
10 Centia Fantails	\$ 23,710.00	\$ 11,147.61	\$ 6,330.47	47%	\$ 3,645.06	\$ 1,519.31	\$ 949.57	\$ 253.22	\$ 63.31
11 Acadiana Chapter	\$ 16,555.00	\$ 7,129.00	\$ 4,874.21	44%	\$ 2,729.86	\$ 1,169.81	\$ 731.13	\$ 194.97	\$ 48.74
12 Tensas River Basin Spurs	\$ 15,013.73	\$ 7,394.06	\$ 4,720.95	50%	\$ 2,843.73	\$ 1,133.03	\$ 708.14	\$ 188.84	\$ 47.21
13 East Central Louisiana	\$ 17,332.00	\$ 8,805.97	\$ 3,532.57	51%	\$ 1,978.24	\$ 847.82	\$ 529.89	\$ 141.30	\$ 35.32
14 Terrebonne Parish Spurs	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	100%	\$ 5,712.00	\$ 2,448.00	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 102.00
15 West Louisiana Gray Beards	\$ 16,440.00	\$ 10,394.47	\$ 7,666.55	64%	\$ 4,283.27	\$ 1,839.97	\$ 1,149.98	\$ 306.66	\$ 76.67
16 Bodcaw Boss Gobblers	\$ 12,840.00	\$ 3,910.92	\$ 2,342.53	30%	\$ 1,311.82	\$ 562.21	\$ 351.38	\$ 93.70	\$ 23.42
17 Ouachita River	\$ 12,678.00	\$ 3,671.69	\$ 1,063.94	29%	\$ 596.81	\$ 255.35	\$ 159.59	\$ 42.56	\$ 10.63
18 Macon Ridge Gobblers	\$ 24,169.00	\$ 11,286.53	\$ 5,649.55	47%	\$ 3,163.75	\$ 1,355.89	\$ 847.43	\$ 225.98	\$ 56.50
19 Feliciana Toms	\$ 20,662.00	\$ 10,799.87	\$ 7,488.39	53%	\$ 4,183.60	\$ 1,797.21	\$ 1,123.26	\$ 299.54	\$ 74.88
20 Dindon Farouche	\$ 11,605.00	\$ 3,612.36	\$ 1,642.51	32%	\$ 919.81	\$ 394.20	\$ 246.38	\$ 65.70	\$ 16.42
21 Bayou Long Beards	\$ 10,201.00	\$ 4,387.67	\$ 2,539.52	43%	\$ 1,422.13	\$ 609.48	\$ 380.93	\$ 101.58	\$ 25.40
22 Winn Parish Longbeards	\$ 20,925.00	\$ 11,653.89	\$ 5,383.81	55%	\$ 3,014.93	\$ 1,292.11	\$ 807.57	\$ 215.35	\$ 53.85
23 Whiskey Chitto Longbeards	\$ 20,256.78	\$ 10,977.46	\$ 6,445.09	54%	\$ 3,809.25	\$ 1,546.82	\$ 966.76	\$ 257.80	\$ 64.46
24 Cajun Boss Hens					August BQ				
25 Union Long Spurs					August BQ				
26 Dugdenona Gobblers					August BQ				
27 Grant Gobblers					August BQ				
Totals:	\$ 486,438.51	\$ 275,917.03	\$ 156,965.29		\$ 86,882.67	\$ 37,239.65	\$ 23,274.79	\$ 6,206.62	\$ 1,551.66



TWIN CITY LONGBEARDS

MONROE/WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA



A GUIDE TO MANAGING THE WILD TURKEY IN LOUISIANA

By Dr. H. C. H. H.

LOUISIANA FOREST TYPES

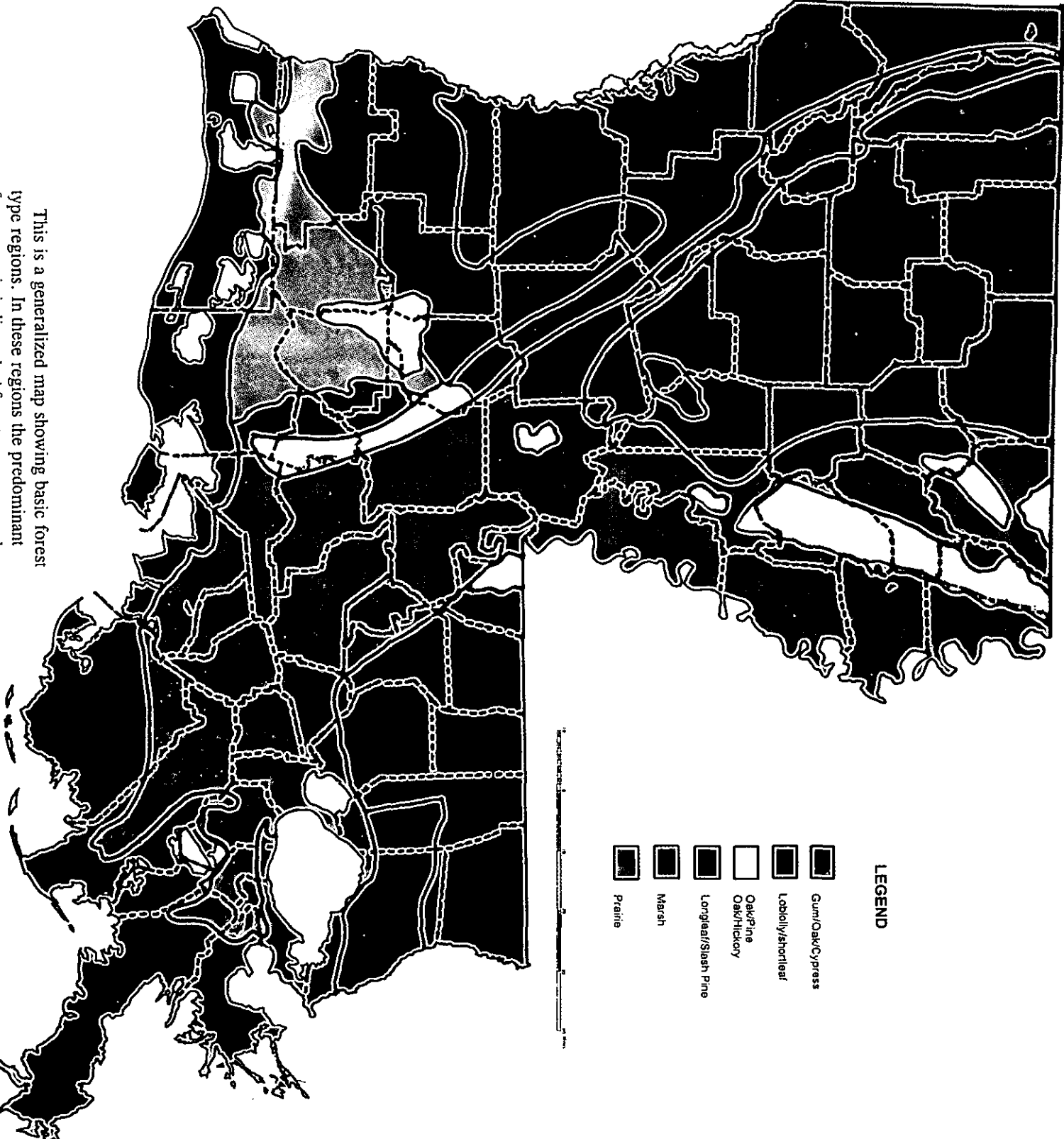
Wildlife Biologist Dan Dennett's association with the wild turkey spans a period of over 40 years. His vast experience with the restocking, management and regulation of this important game bird has provided the foundation for most of the information presented in this publication. He was a staff professional with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries until his retirement. Presently he serves as a free-lance wildlife consultant.



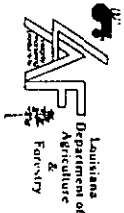
Cover art courtesy of Monroe wildlife artist, G. Wayne McCartney. This is a detail from the original acrylic painting, "Swamp Boss", depicting the wild turkey on the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge. Wayne has also contributed the pen-and-ink sketches used in the body of this publication.

Although his name may not be familiar to local art collectors, Wayne's work has won numerous awards at regional art competitions. His paintings have won numerous awards at regional art competitions. His paintings have won numerous awards including "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" awards at the Catahoula Wildfowl Festival in Columbia, LA. He also ranked in the top ten in his first national competition at the National Wild Turkey Federation Art Print competition at their 1991 national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.

G. Wayne specializes in depicting scenes of wild turkeys and whitetail deer in their natural habitats in the deep woods of the south. As a hunter, as well as a wildlife artist, he is happiest in the outdoors and strives to transmit this feeling through his artwork.



This is a generalized map showing basic forest type regions. In these regions the predominant forest type is indicated. A forest type grows where conditions are most favorable. For a reforestation program, it is well to favor the predominant forest type. When in doubt, consult your forester.



Issued by:
PAUL FREY
State Forester
P. O. Box 1628
Baton Rouge, LA 70728



Turkey Hunters and Enthusiasts

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Help promote our youth to become better and more responsible hunters.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The material gathered for use in this publication has come from many sources including personal communications with experienced wildlife professionals, scientific literature and personal field observations. Many associates and friends of the wild turkey from throughout the southeastern United States over a period of many years have provided significant contributions, both knowingly and unknowingly, and for this assistance the author is extremely grateful.

Special thanks are in order for Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists Jerald Owens, Kenneth Ribbeck and Larry Savage for providing valuable comments in reviewing the manuscript.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Wayne McCartney for his excellent artwork and assistance with publication layout.

The task of manuscript preparation, including many revisions and additions was patiently accomplished by Lisa Duchesne and for this the author is deeply indebted.

The most important contribution to this project came from the Twin City Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation which recognized the need for such an undertaking and generated funds needed for publication. Additional financial support was provided by the Louisiana State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and deserves special recognition.



- ✓ Six issues of *Turkey Call* Magazine
- ✓ Four issues of *The Caller*, the official NWTf newspaper

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Edgefield, S.C. 29824-0530
or
Phone: 803 - 637-3106



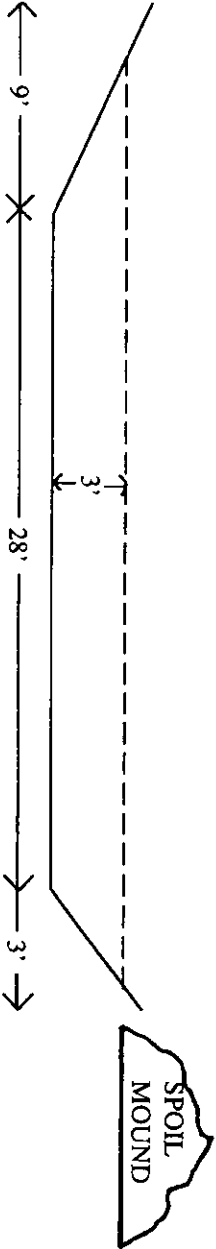
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Appendix I.	Water Hole Construction Diagram

WATER HOLE CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM

SIDE VIEW



WIDTH = 20'
DEPTH = 3'
TOTAL LENGTH = 40'
*SLOPE ON OPEN END = 3:1
TOTAL SOIL REMOVED = 75.5 CU. YDS.

*NOTE: SLOPE ON OPEN END MUST BE 3:1 OR SHALLOWER TO ASSURE EASY ACCESS.
IF SPACE PERMITS, PUT SHALLOW SLOPE ON BOTH ENDS AND SPREAD SPOIL.

TL



Appendix H

A QUICK REFERENCE TO WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT ARE NORMALLY APPROPRIATE FOR PRIVATELY OWNED LAND THAT IS LEASED TO A HUNTING CLUB

1. Meet with the landowner and attempt to familiarize them with the habitat management practices as discussed in the section on Habitat Management on pages 10-16 and determine if any of these could possibly be used on their land.
2. See Access on page 8. Access regulation is one of the most important management practices that can be employed by a hunting club.
3. Attempt to develop a cooperative turkey management plan with adjacent groups and/or landowners. See Adjacent Property on page 9 and Local Attitudes on page 10.
4. Establish an aggressive program to control poaching in the general area of you hunting club. See Poaching on page 18.
5. Develop a system of food plots that are specifically suited for the wild turkey. Food plots are particularly important in intensively managed pine forests. See Food Plots on page 16.
6. The control and regulation of baiting and feeding is an important habitat management practice that should be regularly employed. See Baiting and Feeding on page 20.
7. Regulate annual harvest in accordance with the known population, current reproduction and hunting pressure. See Population Regulation on page 21.
8. Require all hunters using managed lands to record all turkeys observed and/or harvested as discussed in Turkey Population on page 9.



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PREFACE

Sometime shortly after the turn of the century, the wild turkey joined several other important wildlife species and drifted slowly toward oblivion. Influenced primarily by the drastic cutting of the virgin forests and relentless poaching, the wild turkey was soon reduced to mere remnant populations in the few remaining remote tracts of suitable habitat scattered around the nation. For several decades the status of the wild turkey remained unchanged from this tenuous situation and their future was indeed quite bleak. After the hostilities of World War II, state and federal agencies began to develop long range wildlife programs staffed by trained professionals. With the advent of scientific wildlife management, abused species such as the white-tailed deer and the wild turkey became the focus of intensive efforts to restore and manage important game animals. In retrospect, we now know that restoration of these species was unbelievably successful even beyond the limits of the imagination of the most optimistic of wildlife managers. Although, once thought to have highly specific and restrictive habitat limitations, the wild turkey has regularly demonstrated that with proper protection and management it has the ability to adapt and prosper in a wide array of habitat situations. The spectacular rise in wild turkey numbers and a rapidly expanding distribution are dramatic testimony to both the success of the wild turkey restoration program and the adaptability of this elegant game bird.

As turkey populations began to develop throughout Louisiana, sportsmen quickly became interested in the prospect of managing wild turkeys on lands in which they had a personal interest. As a result, many different approaches to turkey management are employed; some having reasonable success while others show little or no effects on the resident populations. This clearly points to a pressing need to make reliable information available to those sportsmen and landowners who want to develop wild turkey populations to their full potential in the respective areas.

This publication is written for the purpose of providing guidance to those who want to manage wild turkeys on a particular piece of property. The information presented herein is based on scientific data and accepted principles of wildlife management developed throughout the nation by professional biologists with many years of experience. Additionally, it is hoped that this publication will allow the prospective wild turkey manager to develop greater insight for the many interrelated factors that influence and govern wild turkey populations.

Appendix G

A QUICK REFERENCE TO WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT ARE NORMALLY APPROPRIATE FOR INDUSTRIALLY MANAGED LAND LEASED BY A HUNTING CLUB

1. Access Regulation. This is probably the most important management practice that can be employed by a hunting club. See Access on page 8.
2. Attempt to develop a cooperative turkey management plan with adjacent groups and/or landowners. See Adjacent Property on page 9 and Local Attitudes on page 10.
3. Establish an aggressive program to control poaching in the general area of your hunting club. See Poaching on page 18.
4. The development of a system of food plots should become a major project of the club particularly in intensively managed pine forests. See Food Plots on page 16.
5. Control and regulation of baiting and feeding is an important habitat management practice that should be regularly employed. See Baiting and Feeding on page 20.
6. All hunters using club lands should be required to record all turkeys observed and/or harvested as discussed in Turkey Population on page 9.





single tree selection: Marking and removing trees one at a time as opposed to group cutting or clear-cutting.

stand: A community of trees.

understory: The plants that occupy the lowest level of vegetation - the grasses, vines, herbs, shrubs and seedlings.

uneven-aged stand: A forest comprised of trees of varied ages.

Appendix F

A QUICK REFERENCE TO WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT ARE NORMALLY APPROPRIATE FOR PRIVATELY OWNED LAND

1. Prepare and implement a long range timber management plan favoring the wild turkey. See section on Habitat Management on pages 10-18.
2. Access Regulation. This is one of the most important management practices that can be employed by a hunting club. See Access on page 8.
3. Establish an aggressive program to control poaching in the general area of your hunting club. See Poaching on page 18.
4. Attempt to develop a cooperative turkey management plan with adjacent groups and/or landowners. See Adjacent Property on page 9 and Local Attitudes on page 10.
5. Develop a system of food plots that are specifically suited for the wild turkey. Food plots are particularly important in intensively managed pine forests. See Food Plots on page 16.
6. Regulate the annual harvest in accordance with the known population, current reproduction and hunting pressure. See Population Regulation on page 21.
7. Require all hunters using managed lands to record all turkeys observed and/or harvested as discussed in Turkey Population on page 9.
8. Control and regulation of baiting and feeding is an important habitat management practice that should be regularly employed. See Baiting and Feeding on page 20.

INTRODUCTION

The wild turkey has always been regarded as a bird of mystery. Its keen eyesight combined with excellent hearing and perpetual wariness have helped create the illusion that this great bird was beyond the control of ordinary humans. Most hunters even had serious doubts that turkeys could ever be managed successfully. While the wild turkey has maintained both the respect and admiration of those that are regularly associated with them, we now know from experience that this majestic game bird is relatively easy to propagate and manage and in reality has no supernatural qualities. Much of the misinformation concerning turkeys was generated during the period when wild turkeys were very scarce and sparsely distributed and most of the old turkey lore had very little to do with fact. During those times not many people had acquired hands-on experience either managing or hunting these birds and it was thus understandable that there was a scarcity of reliable management information. Over the last several decades, however, a tremendous amount of information gained both through research and trial and error has been accumulated. The task of identifying the *primary factors* that influence wild turkeys has now been largely completed and the requirements for a successful management program are well known to wildlife managers.

Wildlife management in general and turkey management in particular are not well understood by the average sportsman. Many believe that there is some universal management plan or strategy that can be used in any and all situations that will bring about speedy and lasting results. Still others are searching for some kind of magical seed or plant that promises to correct all the problems associated with their favorite woodlands. The truth is that there is no quick-fix; all wildlife management programs take time to reach their intended goals. There are no universal management plans that can be routinely implemented on any given tract of land and achieve an acceptable level of success. Each tract of wildlife habitat must be recognized as a unique unit of land that must be specially managed according to it's own characteristics and innate features. Seldom do any two tracts possess the same habitat characteristics even if they are geographically near each other and in the same habitat type. They may be highly similar but only rarely will a detailed evaluation of the tract show them to have identical features. It must be understood that all of the features and characteristics of habitat interact to bring about population responses in respective forms of wildlife. This is why it is so extremely important to thoroughly examine every unit of land to be managed, to identify its primary habitat factors, and develop a habitat profile. Management programs for the wild turkey must be carefully adjusted in consideration of all of the basic characteristics of that particular location since the effectiveness of any wild turkey management program will largely be determined by how well the primary habitat factors are controlled or regulated. Any broad category of influence that regularly brings about some change or effect on plant or wildlife species within the area to be managed should be regarded as a primary habitat factor and be carefully evaluated. Once the habitat factors have been identified, a comprehensive management plan can then be developed for manipulating as many of these factors as is possible within the limits of practicality. In most cases it will not be feasible to make



Appendix E

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

basal area: The collective area, expressed in square feet, of cross sections of all the tree stems occurring on one acre of land.

best management practices: (BMP) Forest management practices that fully protect the environmental values of the land.

cull: A tree that is defective and usually has no market value that should be removed from the stand.

cutting rotation: The length of time in years between harvests. This is variable among species and management objectives.

even-aged stand: A community of trees that are all of the same age.

group selection: Marking for harvest a small number of closely associated trees of approximately the same size and age.

long rotation: Allowing trees to reach maturity before harvesting.

midstory: The middle layer of forest vegetation - the crowns of large shrubs and young trees.

monoculture: A community of trees of only one species, usually in the form of a plantation.

over-mature: Trees that have attained maximum growth for their species and are in the process of slow deterioration.

overstory: The forest canopy or crowns of the trees.

pulpwood harvest: The harvest of small diameter trees for use in paper mills.

regeneration: The process of replacement of a forest removed either by natural forces or by planned harvest.

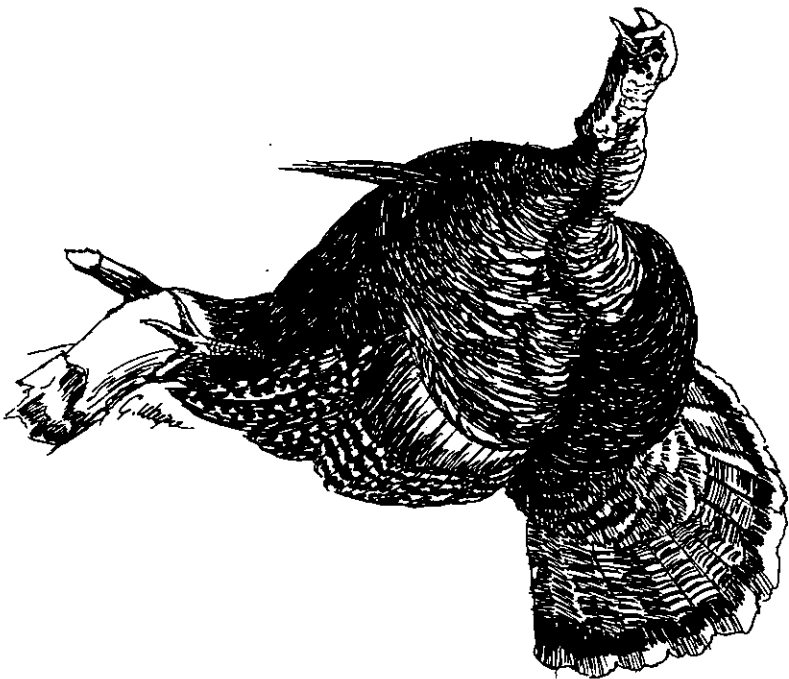
saw timber harvest: The removal of trees suitable for making lumber and/or timbers.

short rotation: The harvest of young trees that have not reached maturity. Primarily for use in the paper industry.

all of the desirable changes, but an effort should be made to make as many improvements as possible. The closer the area comes to meeting the year-round needs of the wild turkey, the better the turkey population will respond to the program. In some situations, small changes can bring about big responses in turkey populations.

Most hunters tend to direct their turkey management efforts solely toward the bird, such as increasing its protection, restocking more of them, or reducing predation. The complexities of habitat and their effects on a turkey population are generally overlooked. Hopefully the following comments and considerations will serve to broaden the management perspective to include the manipulation of habitat factors in concert with regulating the bird itself.

See Appendices F, G, and H for quick references to management practices applicable to most commonly encountered situations of land ownership and management.





Earth Imaging Center

Building 3101
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529
Phone: 601/688-3541
(for aerial photographs & satellite imagery)

**U.S. Department of Agriculture -
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Phone: 318/343-4145

Appendix D

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**BASIC MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS -
PRIMARY HABITAT FACTORS**

THE HABITAT PROFILE

Habitat determines the abundance and distribution of any wildlife species. Unfortunately, most sportsmen fail to recognize the vital role that habitat plays in maintaining wildlife populations. This is for the most part due to a rather general misunderstanding of what the term habitat actually involves. Webster defines habitat as "the region where an animal grows or lives; native environment". This is a grossly over-simplified definition of a highly complex biological entity. Aldo Leopold, the father of modern wildlife management, made this statement about habitat: "When a manager asks himself whether a given piece of land is suitable for a given species, he must realize that he is asking no simple question, but rather he is facing one of the great enigmas of animate nature." A better definition of habitat would probably be: a particular type of land that is characterized by an interacting group of physical and biological features that favor a particular species.

The foregoing comments serve to emphasize the point that habitat is a complex association of physical and biological components and in order to be managed effectively must be evaluated accurately to determine how and where the management effort should be directed.

Habitat Evaluation

In order to accurately evaluate any property to be managed it is vital that a thorough inspection of the tract be made to identify all of the topographical features of that particular unit of land. There are several excellent sources of this type of information that are readily obtainable. First, topographic maps from the U.S. Geological Survey are available from regional centers or local engineering supply stores. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (formerly A.S.C.S.) Parish office keeps a file of recent black and white aerial photos on hand. These photos can be used in their office or they can show you how to order them at nominal cost. Finally, the Earth Imaging Center (formerly part of the U.S. Geological Survey) offers both color infra-red and black and white aerial photos of excellent quality and resolution that can provide detailed information on land features as well as vegetative characteristics and their distribution. This basic information can be of great assistance to the land manager in preparing a plan that maximizes the favorable features of the area and deals effectively with those features that are unfavorable to the wild turkey. In most cases, there will be recent changes in land use, such as pipelines, land clearing, or road construction that will not show on the maps or photos and these should be accurately drawn in. Once the land features are plotted and a detailed map of the area is in hand, a comprehensive turkey management program can be developed. A thorough knowledge of the basic land features and their relationships to each other is essential to proper habitat evaluation.



It is appropriate at this point to outline the basic characteristics of ideal wild turkey habitat. Experience has shown us that the wild turkey can tolerate a great variety of habitat conditions and with proper management and protection is capable of sustaining optimum populations in these situations indefinitely. All of the major timber types found in Louisiana have demonstrated the ability to support flourishing populations of wild turkeys. Each of these broad forest types with its own characteristic plant communities produces a diverse assortment of food and cover plants used by the wild turkey, showing that this great bird is highly adaptable. Although the wild turkey is able to adjust to such a wide array of habitat conditions, it is generally accepted that those populations that maintain optimum numbers are invariably associated with a fairly standard set of habitat characteristics, regardless of timber type. Most thriving populations are found in habitat having the following features:

1. Area usually contains an assortment of mixed age mast producing hardwoods with a large percentage of the mast producers being in the optimal production age range of approximately 50-100 years.
2. Open understory usually found over a large portion of the managed area.
3. Some portion of the area is usually occupied by interspersed openings suitable for nesting and brood rearing cover.
4. Area is protected from poaching.
5. Some year round source of available water is present.

Any management effort would do well to take note of these characteristic features and attempt to include as many as possible in the area to be managed. It is interesting to observe that nearly all of the Louisiana turkey releases that were made on areas having these characteristics were successful. Those that did fail in such areas almost always were the victims of some catastrophic circumstances that were considered to be rare and highly unusual occurrences.

Soils

Any discussion of wildlife habitat must rightfully include some mention of the importance of soils and the role they play in habitat production and distribution. All plant communities are distributed in accordance with the particular soil type for which they have become adapted. An examination of a soil map of Louisiana will show that the major soil divisions very closely follow the distribution of the basic forest regions. Thus it is obvious that soil characteristics and properties govern the species of plants that occur at any given location. For this reason soil analysis should become an initial step of any management attempt that involves food plots or forest regeneration. The local county agent can provide instructions on taking soil samples and getting the samples analyzed. This procedure takes all of the guess work out of any planting program that may become necessary for a management project and will greatly increase the success and productivity of any such planting activity. Much information about soils is available from local U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service Parish Offices.



Appendix C

Useful Addresses and Phone Numbers

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

District Offices

District I:	P.O. Box 915 Minden, LA 71055 Phone: 318/371-3050	District V:	1213 Lakeshore Dr. Lake Charles, LA 70601 Phone: 318/491-2575
District II:	368 Century Park Dr. Monroe, LA 71203 Phone: 318/343-4044	District VI:	105 Ave. of the Acadians Opelousas, LA 70571 Phone: 318/948-0255
District III:	1995 Shreveport Hwy. Pineville, LA 71360 Phone: 318/487-5885	District VII:	P.O. Box 98000 Baton Rouge, LA 70898 Phone: 504/765-2360
District IV:	P.O. Box 426 Ferriday, LA 71334 Phone: 318/757-4571	District VIII:	1600 Canal St. New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: 504/568-7685

Operation Game Thief

Phone: 1-800-442-2511

Louisiana Department of Agriculture - Office of Forestry

Phone: 318/362-3141

County Agent

Listed in phone book under Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service.
There is a county agent in each parish.

U.S. Department of the Interior - Geological Survey

Mapping Division
Map Sales

1400 Independence Rd.
Rolla, Missouri 65401
Phone: 573/308-3500

(for current topographic maps)



PASTURE AND LARGE OPENINGS

	Planting Rate	Planting Depth	Planting Dates
Pensacola Bahia	20 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	March 1-June 1
Rye Grass	30 LBS/A.- Broadcast	0.5"	Oct. 15-Nov. 15

Food plots should be planted in halves lengthwise; one half in a grain crop (wheat, beans, millet, etc.) and the other half in a forage crop (clover, vetch, winter peas, etc.). If it is desirable to mix seed (rye grass and clover make a good combination) then the forage combination can be planted in one half of the plot and a grain crop on the other. When selecting a grain crop bear in mind that deer may completely destroy some grain crops, such as soybeans, and you may want to consider something that is not so attractive to deer. In growing legumes, the chemical characteristics of the soil are critical to successful production. It is important to remember that legumes grow best in a pH range of 6.0 to 7.0 and you must strive to keep the soil within these limits by liming if necessary. Legumes must also be inoculated with bacteria that are specifically suited for that particular species of plant. Make certain that all legumes are inoculated with fresh inoculant that is intended for only the particular kind of legume that you are using.

After receiving the results of soil tests on each plot you should know which plots are going to be good producers and this will give you some ideas on what the soils of good plots should look like and aid in the selection of other good locations. Your local county agent can help you interpret the soil analysis data and suggest what food plants to use on those locations.



Timber Type

Louisiana is blessed with a wide array of basic forest types, all of them capable of supporting flourishing populations of wild turkeys as well as many other species of wildlife. While the wild turkey production potential varies significantly from one forest type to the other, they all have the innate features that are necessary for the continued maintenance and survival of turkey populations. It is also important to recognize that there are many variations of each of the basic forest types, each having its own particular potential for producing turkeys. No attempt will be made here to delineate these numerous habitat variations. Such variations should be identified in the initial habitat evaluation of an area with appropriate consideration being given in the management program. A map of the basic forest types found in Louisiana is shown on inside back cover.

In the following sections is a listing of Louisiana's basic forest regions with a brief description of the tree species commonly associated with each region:

Mixed Pine-Hardwood

This region is characterized by mixed stands of loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, white oak, blackjack oak, post oak, southern red oak, several species of hickories, black gum and flowering dogwood. There are several important variations of the mixed pine-hardwood habitat category including upland hardwood, oak-pine, and oak-hickory. A large proportion of this basic forest type is industrially owned and intensively managed for the production of short rotation pulpwood. Most of this type of industrial land is either in "clear cuts" or even aged stands of loblolly pines. Small stream bottoms that traverse woodlands of this type make an important contribution to the wildlife carrying capacity

by the production of a variety of hard mast. Mast producing species normally present in the stream bottoms include water oak, willow oak, cherrybark oak, hornbeam and beech. Numerous mast producing understory plants are typically found both in the uplands and stream bottoms, but have been eliminated or drastically reduced in most upland stands. In its natural state, the mixed pine-hardwood region has a very high potential for wild turkey production. However, some modern intensive forest management practices can curtail wild turkey productivity by considerably reducing the mast producing hardwood component and developing large blocks of woodlands into pine plantations that are harvested at a young age. The mixed pine-hardwood habitat type presently carries the majority of the total wild turkey population found in Louisiana. Most of the woodlands in this habitat type presently are in hunting clubs.





Bottomland Hardwood

The alluvial floodplains of all the great rivers that flow through Louisiana were at one time forested with large tracts of flood tolerant species. The process of natural selection governed the distribution of these species according to the degree of flooding they could withstand. In some instances a difference in elevation of only several inches is sufficient to change the composition of the vegetative community. Sump areas generally contain cypress, tupelo gum, water elm and red maple. Poorly drained areas are typically forested with overcup oak, bitter pecan, green ash, black willow and swamp privet. Ridge lands, natural levees and terraces normally support water oak, willow oak, cherrybark oak, Nuttall oak, sweet pecan, American elm and honey locust. Widespread agricultural land clearing in recent years has reduced this highly productive habitat type to mere scattered remnants of the once sprawling bottomland forests. The high populations of wild turkeys historically associated with this habitat type are legendary.

Riverfront Hardwoods - Batture

Along the Mississippi River between the river bank and the mainline levee lies a band of excellent wildlife habitat that is distinctly different from other bottomland hardwoods. These riverfront lands are typically forested with cottonwood, sycamore, sweet pecan, hackberry, water locust, black willow and box elder. Except for the usual lush understory of herbaceous plants the understory is normally open. Because of the inherent ability of these lands to support high populations of deer and turkey all of this productive habitat type is in hunting clubs. All of the batture region is subject to annual prolonged flooding, a severely limiting factor to wild turkey production. Fortunately, the turkeys high reproductive potential can overcome the effects of extended flooding with a couple of good nesting seasons.

Small Woodlots

Within the alluvial floodplain in Northeast Louisiana are numerous small woodlot tracts that are composed of excellent stands of desirable mast producing bottomland hardwood species. These tracts are survivors of earlier land clearing activities and have a limited potential for producing wild turkeys when considered individually. Normally their small size would preclude the development of any significant turkey population. However, a comprehensive plan involving several closely associated woodlots seems to offer some collective management potential. If these tracts could somehow be linked to adjacent agricultural operations in some form of a wildlife cooperative that would provide for a small portion of the grain crops to be left in the fields to serve both as winter food sources and travel corridors from one woodlot to the other, there is a distinct possibility that sustaining turkey populations could be established.



Appendix B

General Recommendations for Wild Turkey Food Plots

COOL SEASON PLANTS

	Planting Rate	Planting Depth	Planting Dates
Winter Wheat	90 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	Sept. 20-Oct. 15
Arrowleaf Clover*	8 LBS/A.- Broadcast	0.5"	Oct. 1-Nov. 15
Louisiana S-1 Clover*	5 LBS/A.- Broadcast	0.5"	Oct. 1-Nov. 15
Osceola Clover*	5 LBS/A.- Broadcast	0.5"	Oct. 1-Nov. 15
Austrian Winter Peas*	40 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	Oct. 1-Nov. 15
Vetch*	30 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	Oct. 15-Nov. 15

WARM SEASON PLANTS

	Planting Rate	Planting Depth	Planting Dates
Iron-Clay Cowpeas*	60 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	May 1-June 15
Brown Top Millet	20 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	May 1-June 15
Proso Millet	40 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	May 1-June 15
Corn	10 LBS/A.- Drill	2.0"	April 1-May 15
Chufa	40 LBS/A.- Broadcast	2.0"	May 1-June 30
Soy Beans*	60 LBS/A.- Broadcast	1.0"	May 1-July 15

* Legume that requires inoculant.



- 12. Pay close attention to seeding rate and seeding depth. Seeding depth is critical to plant survival and production.
- 13. Use the correct inoculant on legumes. Inoculant should be fresh and kept away from heat. Stickers are desirable when inoculating seed. Legumes must be inoculated for acceptable results. Beware of wildlife seed mixes that claim to be inoculated.
- 14. Low cost plots can be created by just mowing openings twice a year. Fertilizing such openings will make the plot even more attractive. If opening is not to be planted with forage plants, planting with perennial pasture grass such as Pensacola bahia will make a good wildlife plot for turkeys. Don't mow until after July 15.
- 15. Never locate a wildlife plot near a well traveled road.
- 16. Never plant if soil in plot is not sufficiently moist to ensure germination. Wait until a rainy front has passed.
- 17. Be sure to name or number each plot and keep accurate records as to what is planted in each plot and where it is planted in that plot.
- 18. When clipping clover, be sure to wait until flowering has peaked and flowers are mature, and don't clip too low. Try to clip so that a maximum number of the seed heads can be shattered.
- 19. When planting mixtures of seeds, be sure to adjust the planting rates downward by 10 to 15% for each of the species or varieties used.
- 20. If a food plot is covered with stubble from last year's crop, don't try to burn the plot. Fire may damage adjacent habitat or even start an uncontrolled forest fire. It also dries out badly needed soil moisture.



Small Streambottom Hardwoods

While the tree species naturally found in the small stream bottoms are basically similar to those found on the alluvial flood plains of the larger rivers, their role in the mixed pine-hardwood habitat ecosystem makes them vitally important to the wild turkey. In many cases throughout the mixed pine-hardwood region, the hardwoods found in the small stream bottoms supply the bulk of the mast produced that can be utilized by wild turkey flocks. These bottomland hardwoods are the life blood of a number of important wildlife species including the wild turkey and without them many wildlife populations would be severely limited. In addition to the mast production associated with these bottoms, the relatively open understory characteristically found there provides an excellent travel lane. Such travel lanes are highly important in areas where new clear cuts or young pine plantations form effective barriers that prevent turkeys from freely moving between different parts of their range.

Agricultural Land

The vast expanses of open agricultural land contribute little to wild turkey populations with the exceptions of woodland edges and pastures. In cases where turkey populations utilize woodlands adjacent to pastures and row crop areas, turkeys will frequently use this type of habitat. The edges of these openings are used for nesting cover and brood rearing range while wasted grain crops are at times utilized heavily by turkey flocks. Perennial pasture grasses and livestock forage crops are also used by wild turkeys at certain times of the year. Agricultural openings can thus provide an important source of food and cover with proper management and should not be written off entirely.

Ownership

Any turkey management effort will require some changes being made on the property involved. Some of these changes will be physical such as timber harvest, construction of openings, or water hole construction, while others will be regulatory in nature, such as hunting club rule changes. Ownership of the land involved will determine how much freedom will be allowed in making these changes. If the landowner implements the turkey management program, the limits of the management effort can be governed entirely by him. Anyone other than the owner must comply with the owner's wishes. A great amount of the land that is presently managed for turkeys is owned by industrial timber companies engaged in the production of pine pulpwood. It is thus understandable that they probably may not be able to approve any change in timber management, land clearing or hardwood regeneration, so ownership will play a key role in just how intensive a turkey management program can be. Most landowners will cooperate as long as the management program does not conflict with their



primary land management objectives. It is always wise to make contact with the landowner or his representative and discuss the turkey management project in detail and get their written approval for any needed changes.

Location

There are many tracts of excellent wild turkey habitat that must be rejected for management simply on the basis of their physical location. Fragmented areas, areas that are broken into segments separated by streams, railroads, interstate highways or even state boundaries present problems to the manager. Most of these problems are related to access, such as the ability to control trespassing, distribution of hunting effort, or difficulty in carrying out the various phases of a habitat improvement program. All of these impediments to management detract from the potential of the area.

There are numerous reports of firmly established turkey flocks living in close contact with suburban developments. The wild turkey, like many other species has also proven their adaptability to the hustle and bustle of modern man. This is not to say that they are not vulnerable to dogs, fences, highways, and the other usual appurtenances of civilization, for indeed they are. While such losses are minimal, they all add up and constitute yet another drain on the population. The most ominous threat from living near man's developments comes in the form of illegal hunting. The ever-present prospect of poaching is almost always a threat that usually increases tremendously the closer turkeys range toward human habitation. The old adage "out of sight - out of mind" seems to fit this situation admirably. This is not meant to imply that all close contact situations have a disastrous conclusion, for some outlying settlements protect their wildlife vigorously. Such situations have to be judged on a case-by-case basis, but in Louisiana at the present time it is probably unwise to attempt to manage turkeys near man's developments.

Size

In the early days of turkey management, biologists thought that vast expanses of remote forest land were necessary to sustain wild turkey flocks. We now know better, for turkey restoration has been successfully achieved on some surprisingly small tracts. We have learned that it's what is in the tract in the way of quality of habitat components that really counts rather than how large or remote an area is. So, the reality of the question of how large should a turkey management area be is that there is extreme variability in the ability of woodland tracts to produce turkeys and at this time no one has really defined what the minimum size could be. Looking at the question from the perspective of what is considered to be the best population density expected, a density of approximately 1 turkey per 25 acres of excellent habitat would probably be the best population density that should be hoped for. Using this as a standard and recognizing that most turkey areas will carry less than this, it is reasonable to say that an average hunting club would probably need approximately 2,000 acres of reasonably good habitat that is



Appendix A

General Considerations for Planting Wildlife Food Plots

1. The county agent should be contacted for information on how to get the soil from each plot tested to determine the lime and fertilizer requirements. County agents can also provide information on what forage species and varieties grow best in their area.
2. Clovers need a pH of 6.0 to 7.0 for optimum growth so some plots may need liming before planting. Liming should be done well before initial disking so that it can be cut into the seedbed.
3. Wildlife plots should use combination planting, utilizing plant species that are known to be successful in your particular situation.
4. Several combinations should be tried the first year to determine which plants receive the most wildlife use and which ones are the most suitable for your area. First year plantings should be regarded as test plots.
5. Forage plants are divided into two primary groups: warm season plants and cool season plants, and plantings should be planned accordingly.
6. By utilizing plants that have the ability to reseed, food plots can be managed and costs will be significantly reduced.
7. Plots should be approximately 1 acre in size if possible and evenly dispersed throughout the area. A ratio of about 1 acre of food plot for 160 acres of habitat is desirable. Plots should be located near open understory and/or known travel lanes.
8. Avoid locating plots on top of sandy, dry ridges or clay slopes, try to locate the plots as near bottoms as possible, and at the same time avoid the flood zone.
9. Plots should be made long, narrow and crooked if possible. This will maximize the edge effect.
10. Make sure that plot gets plenty of sunlight; shade trees will impair the productivity of the plot. Plot should be wide enough to avoid shading.
11. Plots should be well disked. First year plots may need to be disked several times to get the soil broken properly. Fertilizer can be applied during seedbed preparation. Some "fluffy" plots may need rolling before planting.



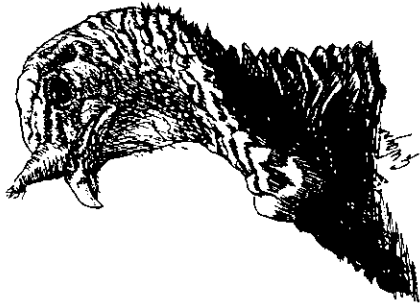
OUTLOOK

The wild turkey has come a very long way in a surprisingly short time. The highly successful restoration efforts have resulted in the establishment of viable populations in virtually every tract of suitable turkey range in Louisiana. The job at hand now is to carefully develop management guidelines that allow these new turkey flocks to reach their full potential and sustain optimum numbers in the face of inevitable environmental change.

Turkey hunting has changed drastically over the last several decades. There are many more hunters, the quality of the habitat has degraded considerably, thousands of acres of land now support improved wildlife populations brought about by enhanced management and protection, and access to almost any point on the map is readily assured by 4X4s and ATVs. In the not too distant future we should expect even more changes that will also have impact on the welfare of the wild turkey. All such factors must be recognized and fully understood in order that appropriate changes in management strategy can be made.

It is quite likely that many of the turkey flocks of the future will reside on reasonably small, intensively managed tracts. Turkey hunting on all public lands will of necessity be regulated by lottery and strict harvest quotas will be needed as a safeguard against overharvest. We will eventually come to realize that the wild turkey is far more vulnerable to hunting pressure than the white-tailed deer and not nearly as capable of maintaining stable populations. Over time we will learn to produce and maintain huntable populations on smaller tracts of land through gradual improvements in management techniques.

The rapid increase in interest in the wild turkey combined with the many technological advances in scientific wildlife management have brought this important native bird back from relative obscurity to a position of prominence among game species. There can be little doubt that the wild turkey will enjoy a bright and secure future.



well managed to maintain a small huntable population of wild turkeys. Tracts smaller than 2,000 acres must, of necessity, consider all of the habitat factors of adjacent property and attempt to develop a cooperative management plan.

Shape

As surprising as it may seem, the shape of an area can and usually does influence how well the management program will work. Shape of the tract involved in a management program will have an impact on the following habitat features and create the following problems:

1. The access system that provides for hunter distribution, management program activities and also protection from poaching and trespassing will be much harder to develop and maintain on an irregularly shaped area.
 2. Boundary maintenance and surveillance on irregularly shaped tracts is much more difficult.
 3. Long, rambling or irregularly shaped tracts often provide adjacent landowners or groups with more benefits from your management efforts than the ones that operate the program.
- The more compact an area is, the easier it is to manage.

Timber Management History

The course of any present turkey management program will be largely directed by how the timber on the area involved was managed in the past. If the land is involved in pine production, it is quite likely that important mast producing hardwoods have been depleted in an effort to reduce competition with the pines. Pine monoculture in the form of large plantations now occupies an impressive portion of the mixed pine-hardwood habitat region. In some upland hardwood areas timber harvests have been so severe that the understory has become an impenetrable thicket and will take years to open up sufficiently for turkey use. Additionally, some private landowners have mistakenly allowed unscrupulous loggers to make a "selected" cut thinking that desirable mast producing trees were to be left and instead later found that the high quality hardwoods had been selected and cut. Only by careful examination of the woodlands can the true forest composition be ascertained and the probable future of the woodlands be determined. It is quite pointless to attempt to implement a comprehensive turkey management program in an area that has been or will be subjected to a program that involves drastic mast producing hardwood removal.

Water Sources

There is little question that physiologically turkeys need water in order for their bodies to function properly. We also know that there are many instances where turkeys have been known



not to visit water sources for many days. Turkeys no doubt get their water from succulent vegetation, fluids from crushed insects they catch, fruits, berries and probably dew. There are, however, times during the year such as in late summer when succulent vegetation is scarce, few fruits and berries are available and the habitat is dry and parched. It is during times such as these that there is probably a need for static water supplies and it is no doubt a good idea to make certain that several scattered sources are available on any area being managed for turkeys. Most woodland tracts in this region usually have a sufficient water source.

It is also important to note that water sources can become a problem in the right set of circumstances. If some devastating disease happened to become established in a population during a dry period when turkeys were using permanent water sources frequently, such water holes could quickly become important points of infection and aid in the spread of the disease. Most of the problems associated with water holes can be largely overcome by randomly dispersing water holes throughout the managed area. Such construction should generally follow the plan shown on Appendix I.

Access

Access is both the friend and foe of a turkey management program and should be carefully evaluated. Recent studies have shown that in some areas roads play an important role in illegal turkey hunting. On the other hand we must recognize that roads and trails are necessary in order to manage and/or hunt an area efficiently. There should be a carefully regulated balance between providing adequate travel routes for hunting and necessary management activities while at the same time protecting as much of the forest from unnecessary use as possible. By restricting access, disturbance of the turkeys can be minimized.

With the foregoing requirements in mind, the following guidelines will provide optimum regulation of access:

1. Primary travel routes that allow good access to the major subdivisions of the area should be designated and used for routine activities.
2. Secondary woods roads and/or trails should be limited to special activities only, such as picking up deer or building tree stands, etc.
3. All roads that connect to public roads or any other roads outside the managed area should be gated and kept locked except when in use.

Primary access routes, even on the most favorable soils will quickly deteriorate if some degree of control is not exercised. The type of vehicles used and the types of tires used should be regulated to prevent maintenance of access routes from becoming a large and persistent item of expense on most areas. Many hunting clubs now limit internal travel to specified routes and allow only ATVs to be used on those routes. This is an excellent solution to a perennial problem.

During the turkey hunting season, many groups now allow only walk-in hunting. This is an excellent practice since it minimizes human disturbance during an important period of the breeding season. This practice also helps to prolong gobbling activity.



All of the pertinent information concerning feeding and baiting stations leads to the same conclusion: baiting and feeding stations should not be allowed on areas being managed for wildlife, especially turkeys; the potential for disaster is too great.

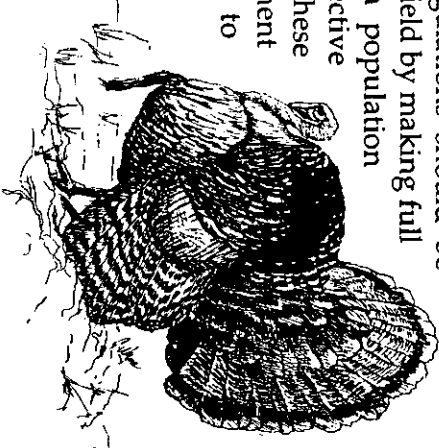
POPULATION REGULATION

Wildlife Laws and Regulations

It is the obligation and purpose of wildlife laws and regulations to protect the resource and allow reasonable utilization of any surplus animals that may be produced through sound management. Such regulations must utilize all available technical information and legal authority in order to efficiently and effectively manage the rapidly expanding turkey populations. As the interest in turkey hunting increases, combined with rapid changes in land use and habitat loss, the task of management becomes more complex. While it was predictable that turkey hunting would gradually gain popularity as the native flocks were restored, the meteoric rise of interest in turkey hunting came somewhat as a surprise to even the most knowledgeable wildlife managers. It is therefore essential that the laws and regulations that govern the management and harvest of the wild turkey be continuously evaluated in terms of the many changes in the circumstances and situations that affect the wild turkey that have taken place over the last several decades.

It is important to recognize that the private land manager has the option to implement rules and regulations on his land that are more conservative and restrictive than state laws and regulations. Many hunting clubs and privately managed tracts choose to follow more restrictive systems of regulation.

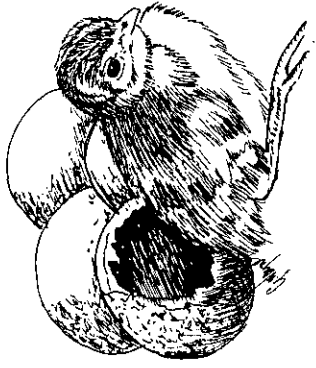
Regulations must be formulated in a manner that carefully considers the basic physical and behavioral characteristics of the wild turkey in order to meet increasing demands and assures the long-term survival and prosperity of this important game species. Although turkey populations are naturally prone to occasionally fluctuate drastically, regulations should be structured so as to provide for a long-term sustained annual yield by making full use of the primary factors that collectively play a role in population maintenance and productivity. The development of effective regulations that offer an optimum level of protection for these biological features is an essential part of any turkey management program. Failing to meet these needs can be expected to contribute to a gradual decline in population numbers.





Disease and Parasitism

Disease and parasitism are part of the natural system that regulates wildlife populations. Although these biological entities are present in all turkey populations, they only become grossly evident when the population becomes stressed by factors such as over-population, food shortages or catastrophic weather events. Weakened or stressed birds quickly fall victim to these endemic parasites and diseases and usually perish or are captured by some predator. In this type of situation predators serve a very useful purpose by removing sick birds from the population and preventing them from infecting healthy individuals.



Obviously when a disease or parasitic infection does occur in a wild turkey population there is no treatment or cure. The disease or parasite must run its course. The primary way to combat disease and parasite problems is through prevention rather than treatment. Simple measures that can be taken that will lessen the opportunities for disease and parasite problems are as follows:

1. Do not create artificial situations that encourage turkeys to congregate in one spot repeatedly, such as feeding stations.
2. Under no circumstances allow game farm turkeys, domestic fowl or their eggs to come in contact with wild turkeys. Private restocking efforts are prohibited.
3. If the turkey population on a managed area becomes unnaturally high, remove the surplus birds by working with the biologists from LDWF to increase the harvest and/or trap and transplant extra birds to new range.
4. If a sick or dead turkey is found, report it immediately to the nearest LDWF office. Sick birds should be captured and held for diagnosis by disease specialists. Dead birds should be frozen immediately if they are not in an advanced stage of decay.

Baiting and Feeding

Although there is some distinction between baiting and feeding, they are in actual practice one in the same. In recent years, deer hunters have learned that baiting stations using corn are a highly effective way to attract and hold deer near a stand. As a result, baiting stations are widely used and create a highly undesirable situation with an alarming potential for becoming a focal point for a disease outbreak among many species of wildlife but particularly deer and turkeys.

By attracting turkeys to one spot repeatedly and creating a ground feeding situation, baiting or feeding stations set the stage for some disease or parasite entity to rapidly infect an entire flock of turkeys. In a situation such as this, all it takes is one sick turkey to endanger the future of the whole area population of birds if the right circumstances happen to be present at the right time.

In addition to the threat posed from disease and parasite infections, corn is frequently contaminated with a fungus that produces a toxin known as aflatoxin that is potentially deadly to all wildlife species. Avian species have been shown to be very sensitive to aflatoxins, but all species of animals, including humans, can be affected by this toxin.



Adjacent Property

The wide ranging habits of the wild turkey combined with the relatively modest size of most woodlands being managed for turkeys make it likely that adjacent properties should be considered in any management program. In most situations habitat conditions on any one tract of woodlands will not be sufficient to hold turkeys throughout the year and they will normally wander to fulfill their needs. If the land manager is lucky enough to determine what the turkeys are utilizing on adjacent property and can provide those habitat components on his property, the turkeys may be encouraged not to wander nearly as much.

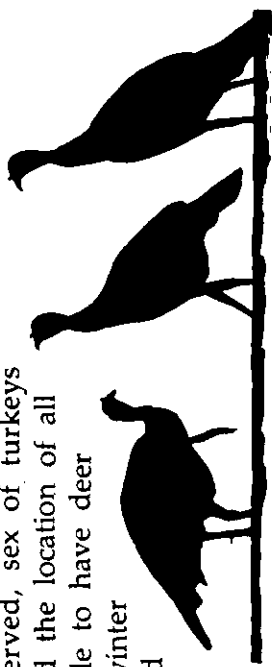
It is also important to maintain a line of communication with adjacent property owners or their representatives in order to keep continuous surveillance on the wild turkeys using that general area. Hunting success on adjacent property is particularly important information to use in the determination of the current status of the resident wild turkey population.

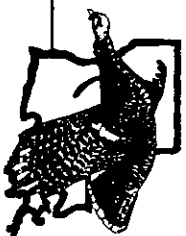
In many situations, it is both possible and desirable for adjacent properties to develop a cooperative program for turkey management. Such an arrangement is especially beneficial to two or more groups that manage adjacent small areas. By increasing the size of the area to be managed in concert with all the other proper management practices, the benefits to the wild turkey can be greatly increased. The greater the involvement of local groups - the greater the chances for success. Conversely if your neighbors aren't interested in cooperating in a management program, your chances of improving the status of the wild turkey on your area are not good.

Turkey Population

It goes without saying that the current status of the resident wild turkey population is the primary point of interest in any wild turkey management program. All too often the determination of this pivotal piece of information is quite difficult. Their innate wariness and secretive nature combined with a natural tendency to wander make the evaluation of turkey populations a serious challenge for anyone. Rarely does any situation lend itself to allow the actual counting of the total population therefore making it necessary to use as many indirect sources of information as possible. Some of the more desirable practices for evaluating the status of turkey populations are as follows:

1. Keep records of all turkeys sighted on your property. This would include date of observation, number of turkeys observed, sex of turkeys observed, number of poults seen, and the location of all observations. It is particularly desirable to have deer hunters record their observations since winter flocks are normally segregated by sex and are relatively stable groups that will usually experience only minor reductions in number through the winter.





2. Make an effort to conduct several gobbling surveys during the gobbling season and record these results.
3. Confer with all adjacent property representatives to discuss their observations and impressions of the turkey population. Turkey hunting success on neighboring property is also valuable information.
4. During the summer, check around openings, food plots and pipelines for broods and record the number of pouls and hens observed.
5. Record data taken from all turkeys killed on the area being managed.

All of these observations when considered collectively should give the manager a reasonably good idea of how many turkeys are using your locality. The number of pouls observed will allow an evaluation of reproductive success for that respective year. It should be noted that some or perhaps most of the pouls observed will not survive long enough to become members of the winter flocks and you would normally not expect a population to expand as much as the number of pouls would suggest.

Local Attitudes

The very best habitat and the most comprehensive and aggressive management program have no hope of being productive without the total support of the people most closely associated with the land. This would apply to hunters that use the land, members of the local communities that travel the associated roads and adjacent landowners that control activities on nearby tracts that are used by resident turkey flocks. In order for any management program to be successful, all of these groups of people must have an attitude of protection and conservation for all of the resident wildlife resources. Without this type of cooperation, any management program will surely fail.

Local attitudes must be considered as an item of paramount importance in the management and propagation of the wild turkey. Any group interested in turkey management should continuously seek to enlist the support and cooperation of local people.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Timber Management

Unless you are a land owner, you probably will not have the opportunity to develop a timber management plan for a wildlife management tract. Since timber is regarded as a crop and crops are grown to produce money, timber management is governed in most cases by the landowners need to derive a monetary return from his land. Refreshingly, most industrial landowners have become more wildlife conscious in recent years and have made significant concessions for wildlife in their forest management programs. It should be made clear that a wildlife timber



5. All roads into the managed area should be gated. If at all possible keep all gates to the area locked except when in use. It is highly desirable to develop the access system on the managed tract in a manner that provides only one road into the area.
6. Report any and all game law violations to your nearest wildlife agent and follow up on your report to see what was done about it. Be persistent!

Climatic Factors

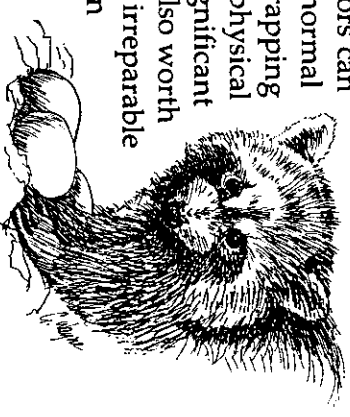
Although the wild turkey can withstand many forms of environmental hardship, weather can seriously affect reproduction and population maintenance. Spring rains that come during the nesting season may flood the nests and spoil the eggs or drench young pouls and cause them to die of exposure. Spring rains also bring about flooding along the major stream bottoms, particularly the Mississippi River, and inundate nesting habitat and drastically curtail reproduction during the flood years.

Drought conditions can also have a serious impact upon turkey populations by critically limiting food production and concentrating the birds around water sources which greatly increases the chances for spreading diseases and/or parasites.

While there is nothing that can be done about adverse weather conditions, it is important that we be watchful for any problems in turkey populations that may arise from periods of unfavorable weather and adjust harvest regulations to compensate for such misfortune.

Predators

Talk to anyone about turkeys long enough and the discussion will sooner or later drift around to predators. While this is understandable since almost all of the common carnivores and birds of prey will at some time eat a turkey, the role of predators in turkey management has been somewhat overstated. Feral dogs, rat snakes, raccoons, coyotes, skunks, bobcats, opossums, red-tailed hawks and great horned owls have all been implicated at some time or other in turkey predation. However, a healthy flock of turkeys on high quality habitat seems to be able to cope with normal predator populations reasonably well. In cases where the habitat is marginal or some rare, unnatural build-up of predators is experienced, predators can become a serious limiting factor. As a safeguard against the abnormal increase in various species of predators, it is wise to encourage fur trapping and coon hunting on land being managed for turkeys. Only if physical evidence is found that a particular species of varmint is causing a significant problem should a predator control program be implemented. It is also worth noting that although beavers are not predators, they can cause irreparable damage to bottomland mast producing hardwoods and thus can become a serious threat to the long-term welfare of a turkey population and should be vigorously controlled.





these characteristics make chufa a challenging choice for use in the food plot program.

Corn is relished by turkeys and most other wildlife forms as well. For this reason corn is frequently chosen as a food plot plant. However, corn must be carefully managed in order to produce reasonable yields and also must be knocked down in some manner when mature so as to be made available to turkeys. All of this extra attention makes corn more troublesome and expensive to produce and hence makes it less desirable as a food plot plant although it can be highly beneficial to turkeys in years of a mast failure.

See Appendices A & B for additional information concerning food plots.

ADVERSE FACTORS

Poaching

Outside of habitat loss, poaching is still the most important negative influence on wild turkey populations. In many instances, poaching alone has brought about the total annihilation of once thriving populations. In spite of improved game law enforcement efforts, turkey poaching remains as a serious threat to the future of the wild turkey in some areas. Hunting out of season, baiting, taking hens, and taking more than the legal limit are the most frequently encountered forms of violation and collectively they are capable over time of decimating even the most stable turkey population. Unfortunately, many aspects of the wild turkey's behavior lend themselves to easy exploitation by the illegal hunter making the turkey highly vulnerable to the ravages of poaching. It is also appropriate to mention that many hens are mistakenly shot each year during the legal spring season placing yet another drain on the populations. Perhaps the most widespread and common violation is the taking of more than the legal limit of gobblers, a practice that undoubtedly stems more from a decay in hunter ethics than from outright disregard for game laws.

All wildlife management programs are formulated with the assumption that poaching will be held to an absolute minimum and any illegal hunting will most certainly result in lowered productivity on the managed area. It is probably unreasonable to think that poaching can ever be completely eliminated in any situation but by taking a few simple precautions it can be highly restricted. Some of the more effective practices that will serve to minimize wildlife law violations are as follows:

1. Make certain that the area to be managed is legally posted and meets all of the requirements of local and state posting laws.
2. Consult with the local District Attorney to determine what procedures need to be followed to arrest someone for trespass.
3. Consult with local field personnel of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and seek their advice as to how to minimize illegal activity.
4. Make a concerted effort to seek the support of adjacent landowners or lessees and local people.



management program in most situations is entirely different from an industrial or commercial timber management program. Timber management for wildlife has the primary goal of improving and sustaining wildlife habitat and profiting only from the timber produced as a by-product of this activity. Conventional timber management has the primary objective of producing timber commercially with any benefits to wildlife being secondary or even accidental. Wildlife timber management programs should consider the full spectrum of wildlife habitat requirements.

It is appropriate to mention that regardless of the management strategy employed by the landowner, it is their right to manage their land as they see fit, whether or not it is compatible with a comprehensive wildlife program. Many sportsmen and environmentalists have great difficulty in accepting this fact.

Timber management like wildlife management must be prescribed on a case by case basis. The timber type, age and species composition of the woodlands involved will necessarily play a large role in the development of a wildlife timber management plan. There are, however, some basic guidelines that should govern the preparation of a timber management plan that serves the best interests of wildlife. The general considerations are as follows:

1. Program procedures should favor the propagation and management of mast producing hardwoods.
2. An effort should be made to maintain and encourage a diverse array of both overstory and understory plants that provide food and cover for wildlife species.
3. Clearcuts, if necessary, should be limited to no more than 40 acres and widely separated. The clearcutting of stands adjacent to clearcuts should be prohibited until understory opens sufficiently for travel.
4. Controlled burning should be used in the pine timber type to encourage the production of desirable food and cover species and control excessive understory growth.
5. The cutting cycle for hardwoods should be not less than an 80 year rotation and the cutting cycle for pine on at least a 60 year rotation, depending on the species of pine.
6. Over-mature hardwoods should be harvested first to release young trees in order that they will be able to grow faster, enlarge their crowns and reach optimum mast production more quickly.
7. Periodic thinning should be done to maintain good growth and promote crown development. Thinning intervals will vary and should be evaluated on an individual basis, but usually should not be longer than 30 years.
8. Never remove any desirable mast producing trees until there are sufficient seedlings, saplings or young trees on location to replace them. In some cases, underplanting with desirable seedlings prior to harvest may be necessary to achieve habitat diversity.
9. Always have timber marked with paint prior to harvest.
10. Always have a wildlife forester assist in the management process.
11. Always use a written agreement for the timber contractor to follow.
12. Insist on foresters using best management practices (BMP).





Harvest Methods

The methods of harvesting trees will vary with the situation and the timber contractor. Many industrial operations involve the clearcut method whereby large blocks of woodlands are completely cut and converted into pine plantations.

In some situations the harvest of small groups of trees of the same age and species may be necessary to achieve the desired habitat response. Small group cuts, when properly marked with paint, are an acceptable practice for wildlife habitat improvement.

The most desirable timber harvest practice for habitat improvement is a combination of single tree selection augmented by strategically placed small group cuts. While this method is more time consuming than others it provides a greater degree of control for changing the habitat. This method is by all wildlife standards the most preferred.

Hardwood Regeneration

The development of a new mast producing hardwood stand after the original has been harvested or cleared is a relatively new forest management practice. Many landowners overlook the possibility of regenerating forests on available open lands and thereby deprive wildlife populations from the benefits that could be produced by additional woodlands. Hardwood regeneration should be considered as a highly desirable land management alternative. It is likely that many landowners consider the development of a new forest such a long term proposition that it would not be worthwhile to consider as a land management option. However, in recent years there has been a considerable amount of investigation into the techniques of hardwood regeneration with the results showing that new forests can be rather easily developed and the species of trees in those forests can be completely controlled. It has also been shown that the new forest produces wildlife food and cover in a surprisingly short time. How quickly the new forest grows will depend on the species of trees planted, the fertility of the soil and the availability of moisture in that soil. In most hardwood situations, wild turkeys should be able to regularly use a regenerated hardwood stand in 20-25 years after planting or possibly sooner on well watered, highly fertile land. Some of the basic rules to remember in a regeneration operation are as follows:

1. Always prepare the site by bush-hogging and/or lightly disking to reduce weed competition and litter; don't burn.
2. Always use mast producing species that are naturally found in that locality and on that particular soil type. Pay particular attention to the drainage and water regime of the area being planted.
3. Make sure that the seedlings or seed are kept cool and moist as they are collected and/or stored.
4. Seedlings can be hand dibbled or planted with a mechanical tree planter. Seed, including acorns, can be planted with a modified grain planter. Take care to plant seed to recommended planting depth. Only plant when the soil is moist.
5. Before initiating a regeneration project, it would be wise to seek the advice of a wildlife forester.



plots. It is therefore essential that a food plot program utilize all available technical information and modern scientific practices in order to maximize productivity. Food plot development must not be viewed as a casual part of land management but rather as a highly technical and demanding facet of the wildlife management project if it is to be successful. Efficient food plot management is truly a separate science by itself.

By satisfying a few basic requirements, the efficiency of the food plot program can be greatly improved. Ideally, plots should be approximately 1 acre in size, long and narrow in shape and located on well drained evenly dispersed sites. Irregular edges on the plots will enhance the edge effect and bring about the production of additional native food plants and nesting cover. Plots should not be located immediately adjacent to primary access routes or all-weather roads if at all possible. Any food plot construction or development should utilize existing forest openings to the maximum extent and the clearing of new openings should be done only on sites having poor quality wildlife habitat. Under no circumstances should existing desirable mast producing trees or shrubs be destroyed to construct a food plot. It would be most practical to gradually develop the system of food plots until it attains a ratio of approximately 1 acre of plot per 160 acres of habitat.

The selection of proper food plants for wild turkeys always requires research and judgement. By seeking advice from experienced wildlife professionals and county agents, the prospective land manager can learn what plants are most preferred by turkeys in their particular region and what plants grow best in their respective soil types. This will assure the manager of some degree of success in his initial efforts to establish a food plot program rather than randomly selecting plants that may or may not make any meaningful contribution to the area turkey population.

All food plots planted in a turkey management program serve the purpose best as combination plots rather than plots planted only in one species of food plant. Such plots should contain at least two types of food plants; one type should be a grain plant and the other a forage plant of some kind. An example of this would be winter wheat and Osceola clover. This particular arrangement produces late winter and spring green forage, grain, nesting and brood rearing range in the late spring and early summer and forage and loafing areas throughout the remainder of the summer. There are many other possible combinations that are equally effective. Such combinations of proven preferred plants should be systematically tried and carefully monitored as "test plots" during the first few years of the management program in order to identify the combinations that grow and produce best on your particular area. A special effort must also be made to determine what the turkeys are using in each plot and which food plants are not being utilized and should be replaced with something more desirable to the turkeys. Preferences will vary from area to area. The availability of natural foods in other parts of the range can have a drastic effect on food plot usage, so this should be taken into consideration.

Any discussion of turkey food plots should rightfully include some mention of chufa or nut grass as it is known by some. Without question chufa is the best turkey food that could be used in a supplemental food plot but it is accompanied by many problems. First, chufa grows best in sandy soils and is best utilized in such soils because of the ease with which the tubers can be scratched from the ground. Also, everything loves chufa including raccoons, hogs, pocket gophers, squirrels and insect larvae. Additionally, the competition from native forbs and grasses make it necessary to cultivate and/or use herbicides in order to attain optimum production. All of



controlled burning to assist in this management effort. Smoke management is also an important consideration that calls for professional assistance.

For a number of reasons, prescribed burning is extremely beneficial to wild turkeys. First and probably foremost, fire will serve to create and/or maintain an open understory, a habitat characteristic that is a necessity in order for turkeys to prosper. Additionally the newly burned area will soon produce literally tons of tender grasses and forbs which turkeys relish. Such areas also quickly make excellent loafing and "bugging" areas for hens with broods and can provide the needed protein that poults require. Gobblers are attracted to the new open areas for gobbling and strutting. The minerals and chemical elements that were formerly locked within the plants and forest litter on the area are liberated in the ashes and will be soon leached back into the soil to become nutrients for the new generations of desirable food plants.

A controlled burning program for wildlife habitat improvement should include the following basic features:

1. The managed area should be divided into burning compartments that can be separated by effective fire lanes that prevent fires from spreading beyond the compartment being burned.
2. Burning compartments should not exceed 200 acres in size and no more than one third of the total managed area should be burned in any one year.
3. Never burn on adjacent compartments during the same year.
4. Compartments should be burned on a 2-4 year rotation depending on how fast ground cover regenerates. In most cases burning every third year will achieve the desired results.
5. All burning must be fully coordinated with the landowner and the Louisiana Office of Forestry.
6. Burning should be done in late winter and completed by March 15 to avoid the possibility of destroying turkey nests. In special circumstances, carefully controlled burning during the growing season can be beneficial if care is taken to protect mast-producing hardwoods.

Food Plots

Probably no wildlife management practice is more generally misunderstood than the development of supplementary food plots. Many hunters believe that food plots can overcome all habitat problems and provide the resident wildlife populations with all of the food items necessary for developing and maintaining flourishing populations. This is, of course, a highly erroneous belief. In many situations *wildlife food plots do little more than attract and hold deer and turkeys and make them more available to the hunter*. In order for food plots to provide realistic benefits to turkey populations, the complete food plot development project must be scientifically managed. By obtaining a soil analysis for the plots, selecting proven turkey food plants that are compatible with the soil type and consulting with the local county agent for advice on planting techniques and fertilization rates, the effectiveness of the food plot program can be greatly enhanced. It is also important to mention that a food plot program that is capable of significantly improving an area will be quite expensive and require a considerable number of



Timber Stand Improvement and Wildlife Stand Improvement

In actual practice the procedures for Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and Wildlife Stand Improvement (WSI) are virtually the same. The only difference between these two programs is that TSI normally is used to improve the stand for commercial species and WSI improves the stand for wildlife primarily with monetary return being a secondary consideration. A stand that is improved and managed for a commercial operation produces trees that are the most valuable to the company while the forest that is improved for wildlife promotes the growth of trees that are most valuable to the wildlife resources. In many instances a commercial TSI operation removes many trees that would be left in a WSI program. It is important that the prospective turkey manager be made aware of how these two programs differ in order that he can avoid being recruited for the wrong type of management strategy. A wildlife stand improvement program for the wild turkey should contain the following features:

1. Management practices should be directed toward improving habitat diversity with special emphasis being placed on the promotion and management of desirable mast-producing hardwoods.
2. The timber management plan should involve all of the practices necessary for the development of an uneven-aged forest that will be able to sustain the production of wildlife foods. Such practices should include systematic thinning of young trees, removal of culls and undesirable species and the harvest of all over-mature trees in addition to the regular harvest of surplus trees.
3. Basal area of the stand should be maintained at a balanced level that encourages an understory open enough for turkeys yet sufficient crown development to ensure optimal mast production. This will vary from site to site and is best determined by a wildlife forester.
4. Cutting rotation should be adjusted to allow mast producers to remain in the stand as long as possible during their peak production years which usually is from approximately 50 to 100 years.

Travel Corridors

The old adage that says "you can't get there from here" accurately depicts the plight of the wild turkey living in most fragmented habitats. This type of situation is particularly common in the pine-hardwood regions where large clearcuts effectively block travel between different segments of wild turkey range. Scattered woodlands in open agricultural areas present the same type of problem to the turkey. By linking widely separated parcels of turkey habitat with suitable travel corridors, turkeys can freely move between the various habitat components as required during the course of the turkey year. While this practice is relatively easy to accomplish, it does take long range planning and coordination, particularly when several landowners are involved. These corridors need not be extremely wide to achieve their purpose and consequently



would not require many acres of land to be diverted from the primary land use. In most cases a narrow band of open woodlands of any species will provide the necessary cover needed to connect separated parcels of habitat. The practice of routinely leaving a travel corridor through or around each new clearcut would ensure that turkeys would be able to move freely between habitat segments. In agricultural areas, fencelines, ditchbanks, and open turnrows could be developed into travel corridors by planting a 50' wide strip of fast growing trees such as cottonwood and water oak between tracts of woodlands. Any fast growing tree or large shrub that develops an open understory will work. If it produces some kind of mast or usable seed that is all the better.

Streamside Management Zones (SMZ)

In the pine-hardwood regions, particularly in the intensively managed industrial forests, the small stream bottoms are the life blood of most wildlife populations. The mast producing hardwoods found along these watercourses are vitally important sources of both food and cover for wildlife found in these parts of the state. Additionally, these bottomlands provide valuable travel corridors through areas of habitat that some species find unsuitable. While many wildlife experts agree that these stream bottoms are highly important, some landowners are still very reluctant to manage these areas to their full wildlife potential, preferring instead to convert as much of the bottoms to pine production as practical. This usually results in only a very narrow strip of mast producing hardwoods adjacent to the streambed being left for wildlife uses. The most desirable practices for streamside management include the following:

1. Include the entire stream floodplain in the SMZ.
 2. Manage the SMZ for optimal production of desirable mast producing hardwoods.
 3. Harvest of any hardwoods would be by single tree selection or small group selection.
- These simple guidelines will ensure that wildlife will receive the most benefit possible from this extremely important component of the pine-hardwood habitat regions.

Openings

The importance of openings in any wild turkey management program cannot be overstated. Openings make a multitude of varied contributions to the turkey population in a number of quite different ways. It is also important to note that on areas that support flourishing populations of wild turkeys, scattered openings are found throughout these areas and have been found to directly influence turkey population densities. While openings primarily provide a diverse assortment of seeds, fruits and insects, they also produce succulent vegetation for forage, nesting cover, brood rearing range and courtship areas. A number of scientific studies have been done on the characteristics of these openings and although there are varying opinions by the authors of these studies, the general consensus is that turkey density increases as the percent of habitat occupied by openings increases within practical limits. Additionally, openings should be large



enough to allow the production of significant quantities of insects and native plants but probably need not exceed 10 acres in size. Closed-off roads, power line rights of way, levees and gas pipelines serve as excellent openings for turkeys. Supplementary food plots, when properly managed, can also be highly beneficial components of the opening system but should not be considered as fully adequate to satisfy the needs of the wild turkey. Most food plots are too small to make all of the necessary contributions of the open components of turkey habitat. General guidelines for openings are as follows:

1. In most situations, openings for wild turkeys should occupy from 10-25% of the total habitat area.
2. Openings should be as large as possible. Those larger than 5 acres will provide the most benefit.
3. All openings must be maintained to prevent encroachment from woody plant species. At least one annual bushhogging is necessary.
4. Never destroy good wildlife habitat to create openings; if you are developing new openings get a wildlife professional to help in the selection of new sites.
5. Never mow, burn or cultivate openings during the nesting season (March 15 - July 15). Spraying with herbicides or pesticides should also be prohibited during this period.
6. The planting of supplementary food plots around the edges of openings is an excellent way to enhance the value of the opening.
7. Never use chicken house litter to fertilize openings.

Burning

Fire has been present in the pinelands of the deep south for thousands of years and the pine species have developed a reasonable tolerance for fires. Not only is fire an integral part of piney woods ecology but land managers now consider this primitive force a vital part of modern pine forest management. Today's forest managers routinely employ the use of fire as a basic management practice in the production of pine. Wildlife biologists regularly use fire to control understory growth and promote the growth of desirable food and cover for wildlife and it should be considered as the cheapest, most effective, and most easily used habitat improvement practice available.

While controlled burning is an excellent tool for managing pinelands, the use of fire in bottomlands and on hardwood ridges and flats interspersed in pine, should be strictly avoided. Hardwoods have little tolerance for fire and will be damaged or killed by repeated burning. Since mast producing hardwoods are a vital component of turkey habitat, special attention must be given to protect hardwood areas when controlled burns are used for habitat improvement.



While the use of fire for habitat improvement is a widely accepted practice, we should always use fire with extreme caution, realizing that uncontrolled forest fires have the potential for being devastating. For this reason, it is a good idea to leave controlled burning to professionals. Even experienced foresters have fires get out of control occasionally and it is a good idea to hire a professional with experience in

Thomas Gattle, Jr.,

I have been informed that the Wildlife Commission will again be addressing the goose creeping issue at the June 4, 1998 meeting. While there is considerable interest in controlling the Mid-continent Lesser snow goose population, I believe the Commission needs to consider several aspects of the issue before changing the regulations.

- Creeping will cause snow geese to move from southwestern Louisiana to areas north of traditional hunting areas, which would probably result in a reduced harvest. With a 60 day duck season, the longer snow geese remain in southwestern Louisiana where hunting pressure is concentrated, the greater incidental harvest will be.
- Creeping pressure will be directed towards white-fronted geese rather than snow geese if creeping is allowed all season long.
- Creeping will increase the incidental take of Canada geese.
- It is unlikely that creeping will reduce flock size of lesser snow geese, making the birds more vulnerable to other hunting methods.

Possible compromises would be to allow creeping during the snow goose only season, or to allow creeping in areas north of I-10, where goose hunting pressure is less than in southwestern Louisiana. This last possibility would help move snow geese back into the traditional hunting areas in southwest Louisiana and would probably increase harvest.

Sincerely,

Clinton Jeske

DEAR MR. TOM GATTLE JR.

I HAVE BEEN HUNTING GEESE IN
SOUTHWEST LA. FOR ABOUT 24 YEARS. I
AM 39 YRS. OLD AND CONCERNED ABOUT
THE FUTURE OF GOOSE HUNTING. I MUST
SAY THAT I AM AGAINST GOOSE CREEPING.
ANYONE WHO HAS NOT HUNTED IN SOUTH-
WEST LA. CAN NOT POSSIBLY IMAGINE
THE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON SPECKLE-BELLY
GEESE. IF THESE PEOPLE DOWN HERE
ARE ALLOWED TO CREEP, WHAT GEESE
DO YOU THINK THEY WILL SHOOT:

BLUES + SNOWS OR SPECKS. WE HAVE
ALREADY SEEN A CHANGE IN ^{THE} FLIGHT
OF DUCKS. IF CREEPING IS ALLOWED FOR
GEESE, IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE THESE BIRDS SHIFT THEIR FLIGHT
PATTERN. I DO NOT KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS,
BUT I DO KNOW CREEPING IS NOT THE ONE.

THANK YOU

318-233-1979

CHRIS A. STUTES

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to abolish the regulation that prohibits goose creeping.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 3. Wild Birds

§307. Goose Creeping

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:547 (August 1988), repealed LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Col. Winton Vidrine, Administrator, Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., September 2, 1998.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

**LA DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
1998 STRATEGIC PLAN
(Draft dated 6/02/98)**

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INTRODUCTION

This draft of the 1998 Strategic Plan for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been compiled for presentation to the Joint Natural Resource Committees of the House and Senate on June 2, 1998.

Progress thus far includes development of the departmental mission, philosophy, vision, and goals and partial completion by the programs of their missions, goals, objectives, strategies, and performance indicators. A matrix is included in this report (page vii) to show items now completed (in draft form) and items yet to be completed.

The planning process at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries was initiated in February, 1998. Two full-day sessions with members of the executive staff, Office of Management and Finance facilitators, and administrative representatives of each program were held to develop departmental-level components. This also involved identification of internal and external factors and critical issues. A summary listing of these items is included in this preliminary report (pages iv, v).

Numerous sessions have been conducted with individual programs over the past several months for development of the program-level components.

The following resources were used by the Department in the planning process: *Manageware*, Act 1465, training materials provided through workshops given by the Division of Administration, Office of Planning and Budget, and strategic plans from other states' wildlife and fisheries departments.

The Department's Office of Management and Finance staff has been responsible for facilitating this process, maintaining documentation for audit purposes, and compilation of the draft and final reports. A list of key persons responsible for development and final product is attached (page ii).

This document is a draft only, and all components are continually being refined during the planning process.

KEY CONTACT PERSONS

EXECUTIVE STAFF

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary	765-2623
Clyde Kimball, Deputy Secretary	765-2857
Johnnie Tarver, Assistant Secretary	765-2806
John Roussel, Assistant Secretary	765-2806
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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

Wynnette Kees, Accountant Administrator	765-2862
David Lavergne, Economist	765-2864

ENFORCEMENT

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INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

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SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD

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Phil Bowman, Administrator, Fur and Refuge Division	765-2812
Brandt Savoie, Asst Administrator, Fur and Refuge Division	765-2814

FISHERIES

Karen Foote, Administrator, Marine Fish Division	765-2384
Claude Boudreaux, Asst Administrator, Marine Fish Division	765-2935
Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fish Division	765-2330
Don Lee, Asst Administrator, Inland Fish Division	765-2331

DEFINITIONS

administration	manage or supervise the execution, use or conduct of
collaboration	work jointly with others; cooperate
conservation	careful preservation and protection
control	exercise restraining or directing influence over; regulate
create	bring into existence; invent; bring about by action or behavior
development	promote the growth of; make available or usable
direction	guidance or supervision; management; authoritative instruction
educate	develop mentally or morally by instruction; provide knowledge and development
enforce	strengthen; gain or effect by force; carry out effectively
enhance	make greater as in value, desirability, or attractiveness
enjoy	take pleasure; have for one's use
enjoyment	possession and use; gives keen satisfaction
maintain	keep in existing state; preserve; defend; sustain; affirm; support
manage	direct with skill; treat with care; alter by manipulation
operate	run or control the functioning of; conduct the affairs of; manage
opportunity	favorable juncture of circumstances; change for progress or advancement
optimize	make as perfect, effective, or functional as possible
premier	number one
promote	contribute to the growth or prosperity of; help bring into being
protect	shield from injury or destruction; guard; defend; save from loss
regulate	govern or direct according to rule; bring order, method or uniformity to
renewable	capable of being replace by natural ecological cycles or sound mgmt practices
replenish	stock; nourish; build up again; replace
research	careful or diligent search; studious inquiry or examination
stewardship	responsibility for management with regard for the rights of others
supervision	critical watching and directing; oversight
sustain	support, nourish, prolong
utilization	practical use or account

INTERNAL FACTORS

(ELEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION, PERFORMANCE, PROBLEMS, AND POTENTIAL WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES)

1. Employees

- Tenure, education, training, and experience of managers
- Attitude, morale
- Promotional opportunities
- Methods for rewards/discipline
- Length of service of top administrators
- Continuing education/training
- Responsiveness to change
- Trust in planning process
- Involvement in decision-making processes
- Parity in pay with other agencies

2. Management

- Continuity of direction
- Skills of supervisors and managers
- Support for planning process
- Turnover every 4 years
- Ability to inspire loyalty and trust

3. Organization/Other

- Continuity of core programs
- Continuity of direction
- Intra departmental cooperation, communication
- Enabling legislation and subsequent legislative mandates
- Administrative paperwork and processes
- Condition of capital assets/physical plant
- Functional and organizational structure

EXTERNAL FACTORS

(ELEMENTS, OR FORCES WHICH INFLUENCE THE ORGANIZATION'S ENVIRONMENT THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS)

1. Finances

Financial status of state government
Economy of state

2. Constituents

Level of knowledge
Trust, support
Demographics
Attitude
Compatibility (conflicting wants/needs)
Special interest groups
Number of persons/groups impacted

3. Administration

DOA policies/requirements/budget process (rule/govern by "exception")

4. Other

Weather conditions
Technology
Educated/experienced applicant pool
Balanced, productive ecosystem

5. Politics

Climate
Support
Cooperation among agencies/partnerships
Laws

OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES

1. Need for recodification of statutes; organization
2. Clarification of roles of the Commission vs. the Department
3. Public use of Department-owned/managed lands (road maintenance, etc.)
4. Future funding for land acquisition
5. Difficulties in raising license fees
6. Lack of sufficient funding for control of aquatic weeds

COMPLETION MATRIX

COMPONENT	OMF	EXECUTIVE	ENFORCEMENT	INFO/EDUC	SPMB	WILDLIFE	FISHERIES
Mission Statement	y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Goals	y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Legal Authorization for each goal	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Objectives	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Who Benefits from each objective	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Strategies	N	N	Y	Y	PARTIAL	Y	Y
Performance Indicators	N	N	Y	PARTIAL	PARTIAL	Y	Y
Strategy Analysis Checklist	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Performance Indicator Documentation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Performance Indicator Matrix	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

LA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES 1998 STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education; to provide opportunities for knowledge of and for the use and enjoyment of the resources placed under the stewardship of the Department; and to provide a safe environment for the users of these resources.

VISION

Louisiana will be the premier state for wildlife and fisheries resource management by providing maximum and sustainable opportunities for all users of the resources, both consumptive and non-consumptive. There will be recognition of and confidence in the management abilities of the Department.

PHILOSOPHY

The Department's mission will be accomplished in a fair and equitable fashion using science-based information, open communication, and collaboration. The policies and actions of the Department shall be developed and implemented so as to encourage teamwork among its employees and to promote the public's trust and respect.

GOALS

1. Establish stable funding for the Department so that we are able to sufficiently and effectively accomplish our mission and meet our goals and mandates.
2. Optimize long and short-term recreational-and-commercial-use opportunities by
 - a. Establishing technically sound research, management, development and monitoring programs for the wildlife and aquatic resources and their habitats
 - b. Enforcing compliance with fish and wildlife laws
 - c. Informing and educating the public about resource issues
3. Create an environment within the Department that is conducive to employee productivity through
 - a. Training
 - b. Paperwork reduction
 - c. Provision of adequate resources and equipment
 - d. Establishing parity with other agencies relative to pay levels

511 - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

PROGRAM A - MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

MISSION: The Office of Management and Finance (OMF) is an organization of professional employees whose mission is to provide leadership, support, and information to meet the operational, functional, and administrative needs of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Regulatory and support functions are provided in the areas of : finance, budget, planning, contract management, information systems, human resources, property and fleet management, socioeconomics, and procurement. The OMF program also administers the recreational and commercial license program, the motorboat registration program, and the "Clean Vessel Act" program. Clients served are the public, Department staff, other government agencies, the legislature, and private entities.

GOALS:

- I. Minimize audit findings and satisfy all legal financial and operational requirements by enforcing department-wide compliance with state laws and executive orders
- II. Efficient and effective operations and fostering client satisfaction by employing sound management, financial, and human resource practices
- III. Enable maximum employee productivity department-wide and assure a quality workforce
- IV. Satisfy socioeconomic research needs of program staff
- V. Promote cleaner and safer state waters

OBJECTIVES

- I.1. Establish an internal audit function/section by 2000
- I.2. Resolve all audit findings and implement corrective action timely
- I.3. Enforce Performance Planning and Rating Program to ensure 95% department-wide participation by 1999.
- II.1. Develop and conduct user surveys on clients including department personnel, vendors, license purchasers, and boat owners, doing one group per year.
- II.2. Develop and implement an annual Customer Service Plan in accordance with Executive Order No. 97-39 by November 1 of each year.

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PROGRAM A - MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

- II.3.** Review and update one third of all position descriptions annually (re changes in duties, defining essential and non-essential functions within each job, and identifying physical requirements of each job)
- II.4.** Develop and implement an adequate inventory system and improve supply distribution in the Services Section by 2000.
- II.5.** Implement an automated sports license system by 2000.
- II.6.** Reduce on-the-job injury incidents by 15% by 6/03.
- II.7.** Prepare Cash Management Plan by 2000 (includes deposits, classifications, Bond/Crime Program, collections by various)
- II.8.** Develop Record Retention Plan for department by 2002.
- II.9.** Reduce hard-copy documentation re procurement, payments, and other workflow functions (to electronic) (strategy would be implement on-line approvals by 2003)
- III.1.** Identify training needs in all areas by _____. And design plan by _____
- III.2.** Develop employee recognition policy by June, 1999
- III.3.** Develop career ladder to attract and maintain quality workforce (some strategies would be: create training series, ensure appropriate allocations, task forces, identify inequities, compare market data)
- III.4.** Increase workforce diversity from 5% to 6% by _____ (Strategies - internships and recruitment)
- IV.1.** Conduct economic analysis of offshore shrimp fleet by 2002.
- IV.2.** Conduct economic impact analysis of drum fish damage to seed oyster grounds by 2000.
- IV.3.** Prepare and publish statistical document on commercial fishing licenses
- V.1.** Increase the number of boat sewage pump-out and dump-out facilities by 25% by 2001

MISSION: the mission of the Enforcement Program is to protect Louisiana's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats by enforcing related laws and regulations and to create a secure environment for the maximum enjoyment of hunting, fishing, recreational boating and affiliated outdoor activities. The clients served by this program are the citizens of the state. The program works to promote voluntary compliance and ethical participation in these activities through education, and through firm, fair, and impartial law enforcement.

GOALS:

- I. To provide the state of Louisiana with a safer boating environment
- II. To increase the level of compliance to fish and wildlife regulations

OBJECTIVE I.1.:

By FY 2003, the Enforcement Program will reduce boating accidents in the state of Louisiana by 2%.

STRATEGIES:

- I.1.1 Identify the historic geographic locations of the highest portion of boating accidents
- I.1.2 Distribute adequate manpower and equipment resources to provide effective enforcement of boating safety regulations in these areas.
- I.1.3 Develop a statewide public boating safety educational program that offers a minimum of one class monthly in each of the 9 regional offices.
- I.1.4 Evaluate manpower and resource distribution

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Budget allocation
	Number of positions
	Number of registered boaters
	Number of boating courses
	Number of boating hours

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM B - ENFORCEMENT**

Outputs	Number of boating accidents
	Number of boating fatalities
	Number of boating injuries
	Number of citations issued
Outcomes	% reduction in boating accidents
Efficiency	Ratio of ??

OBJECTIVE II.1.

By FY 2003, the Enforcement Program will increase the level of public contact by 2%.

STRATEGIES:

- II.1.1 Provide visible law enforcement presence
- II.1.2 Expand community involvement
- II.1.3 Obtain or expand funding for overtime

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Budget Allocation
	Number of positions
	Hours of patrol
Outputs	Number of contacts with public
	Number of citations issued
Outcomes	Increase in public contacts
Efficiency	Ratio of ??

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM C - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

MISSION: The mission of the Information and Education Division is to inform and educate the public about our wildlife resources and their habitats in order that they become more knowledgeable, more responsible stewards and better able to enjoy the benefits of the resource, and to promote the wise conservation and management of that resource.

GOALS:

- I. To develop and implement informational and educational materials and programs that promote increased public awareness, participation and appreciation regarding wildlife resources.
- II. To create a safer hunting environment.

OBJECTIVE I.1.

To increase instructional time spent presenting a variety of wildlife education programs which stress awareness, participation and appreciation for different audiences by 1 percent annually.

STRATEGIES:

- I.1.1. Utilize an instructional curriculum linked to Dept. of Education adopted-science benchmarks through classroom activities.
- I.1.2. Educational programs will be made available to a wide range of audiences by offering camps for youth, families, adults, and teachers.
- I.1.3. Conduct tours and educational presentations to youth and adult groups at Department facilities.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of EPUs* Wildlife Education budget
Output	Number of program participants
Outcome	Percentage increase of instructional time over previous year
Efficiency	Ratio of participants to Education budget

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM C - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

*EPU - Education Program Unit - one instructional hour per instructor.

*Baseline data will be established in the first year.

OBJECTIVE I.2.

To increase Louisiana Conservationist Magazine circulation by 1 percent annually.

STRATEGIES:

- I.2.1. School promotions
- I.2.2. Internet contacts
- I.2.3. Marketing activities

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	?
Outputs	Total subscriber renewals New subscribers
Outcome	Percentage increase over previous year
Efficiency	?

OBJECTIVE I.3.

To increase by one percent each year the number of News Units* which promotes appreciation, participation, and awareness of wildlife resources.

STRATEGIES:

- I.3.1. Maintain an audio/visual library pertaining to department activities.
- I.3.2. Link the LDWF homepage to Internet sites.
- I.3.3. Distribute the bi-weekly package to various media through e-mail addresses.
- I.3.4. Develop topics regarding department activities and resource management

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM C - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Information budget and the number of staff
Output	Number of units distributed
Outcome	?
Efficiency	Budget divided by number of units distributed

(*News Units are defined as an individual news or informational topic distributed to the public or media.)

OBJECTIVE II.1.

To maintain sufficient volunteer instructors to create a safe hunting environment.

STRATEGIES:

- II.1.1. Recruit, train and certify volunteers as instructors.
- II.1.2. Conduct advance in-service training for volunteer instructors.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of courses Number of participants
Output	Number of instructors trained
Outcome	Number of annual hunting accidents compared to the 5 year average prior to mandatory hunter education of the Hunting Accident Ratio
Efficiency	?

* number of hunting accidents/100,000 licenses sold

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM D - SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD**

MISSION: The Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board was created by Act 890 of 1981 to address concerns about the declining economic environment of the commercial fishing industry in Louisiana. The Board's mission is to aid the commercial fishing industry through product promotion and marketing development. It serves commercial fishermen and wholesale and retail dealers by providing a coordinated marketing function and by conducting activities with the purposes of enhancing the public image of commercial fishery products, promoting consumption of these products, and assisting the seafood industry in market development.

GOALS:

- I. Increase or maintain at current levels the contribution of the commercial fishing industry to the economy of the state
- II. All industry participants will be better informed about product liability issues, labor relations, new production and processing methods, regulations, financing, and marketing options
- III. Develop markets and marketing strategies and represent the interests of the oyster industry in accordance with Act 448 of 1995.

OBJECTIVE I.1.

Identify and cultivate new markets for LA seafood products by developing 1,000 new trade leads annually for distribution to in-state seafood processors.

STRATEGIES:

- I.1.1. Participate in trade shows
- I.1.2. Advertise in seafood trade publications

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of processors
	Dollars spent on advertising and trade shows
	Number of trade shows attended
Output	Number of leads generated
Outcome	Percentage increase over prior years

**512 - OFFICE OF SECRETARY
PROGRAM D - SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD**

Efficiency Cost per lead

OBJECTIVE I.2.

Promote maximized value and increased consumption of LA seafood products by distribution of 5% more marketing items (brochures, recipe cards, news releases, news features) and by increased participation in retail promotions and events - this to be accomplished incrementally over the next three years.

STRATEGIES:

- I.2.1. Place radio, television, and newspaper advertisements in 20 cities
- I.2.2. Distribute recipe cards and brochures at five fairs/festivals
- I.2.3. Conduct seasonal promotions in 300 grocery stores
- I.2.4. Send weekly news releases to papers throughout the state and nation

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Input	Dollars spent on advertisements, etc.
Outputs	Number ads distributed Number cards distributed Number brochures distributed Number contacts through promotions Number news releases printed
Outcome	Consumption stats % increase in marketing efforts
Efficiency	?

OBJECTIVE II.1.

Produce and distribute quarterly newsletter to commercial fishermen and seafood processors.

STRATEGIES:

- II.1.1.

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PROGRAM D - SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number newsletters distributed
Ouputs	?
Outcome	?
Efficiency	?

513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE

MISSION: The Office of Wildlife is composed of professional biologists, technicians and support personnel which staff the land-stewardship, organizational units whose mission is to develop, maintain, enhance, manage, and promote wildlife resources, their habitats, and biological diversity while providing conservation-based recreational and commercial opportunities for the public.

GOALS:

- I. To develop and implement effective resource management strategies and programs that result in conservation of wildlife populations and habitats while providing quality outdoor experiences
- II. To increase, enhance, and conserve wildlife habitats on the Department's system of Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges while providing the public with quality outdoor experiences

OBJECTIVE I.1.

Provide 1.3 million user-days of outdoor activities annually within a wise-and-sustainable-use setting.

STRATEGIES:

- I.1.1. Develop and recommend hunting seasons, bag limits, and regulations annually that permit sustainable game, alligator, and furbearer populations.
- I.1.2. Provide technical assistance to Louisiana residents annually to foster better stewardship of private properties for wildlife.
- I.1.3. Enhance wildlife habitat through development and implementation of partnerships for national initiatives to improve habitat on private lands.
- I.1.4. Conduct research on wildlife ecology and habitat management techniques and survey targeted wildlife species to develop better technical assistance recommendations and hunting regulations.
- I.1.5. Develop and incorporate wildlife friendly standards and practices into legislation and other initiatives that have wide application through participation on state, regional, and national forums and committees.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of habitat evaluations conducted.
	Number of wildlife surveys conducted.

**513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

	Number of public comments pertaining to seasons and bag limits evaluated
	Number of technical assistance request received
	Number of man hours expended to develop and recommend wildlife standards and new practices
Outputs	Number of species for which hunting and trapping regulations are promulgated
	Number of persons receiving verbal , written, or on site technical assistance
	Number of wildlife species with developed indices of population size
	Number of recommendations developed for new or existing wildlife standards or practices
Outcomes	Number of user days of outdoor recreation provided to the public
	Number of acres of wildlife habitat improved and the number of technical assistance calls responded to
	Number of species for which population indices warrant establishing hunting or trapping seasons
	Number of new standards and practices incorporated into Department and public wildlife management programs
Efficiency	Harvest per unit of effort for game and commercial wildlife species
	Total harvest of major wildlife species
	Number of technical assistance responses per technical staff member

OBJECTIVE 1.2.

Assure no net, annual loss of the functions and values of regulated wetlands and other wildlife habitat through the year 2003 by requiring at least 1:1 habitat unit replacement, and through providing technical assistance to landowners for voluntary enhancement, creation or restoration of non-regulated wildlife habitat.

STRATEGIES:

1.2.1. Mitigate habitat losses and protection of wildlife populations through exercise of our statutory authority under Federal and State environmental regulatory programs

**513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

- I.2.2. Enroll habitat in the Natural Areas Registry
- I.2.3. Establish Scenic River Servitudes
- I.2.4. Provide technical assistance to governmental agencies, industry and private individuals aimed at wildlife habitat improvement and creation.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of man hours and costs spent on Mitigation of wetland loss
	Number of man hours and costs of enrolling landowners in the Natural Area Registry program
	Number of man hours and costs of coordinating the Scenic Streams program
	Number of man hours and costs of providing habitat related advice
Outputs	Number of permit applications commented on
	Number of landowners contacted to enroll in the Natural Area Registry
	Number of Scenic River contacts made and tracts evaluated
	Number of non-regulated habitat contacts made and tracts evaluated
Outcomes	Number of habitat units protected (mitigated)
	Number of landowners enrolled in the Natural Area Registry
	Number of miles of Scenic River frontage protected
	Number of acres of wildlife habitat improved
Efficiency	Acres of wetlands mitigated / acres damaged
	Percent of suitable tracts enrolled in Natural Area Registry
	Number of Scenic River contacts / servitude established
	Number of habitat improvement contacts / acres improved

OBJECTIVE I.3.

Develop plans by 2003 for identifying, managing and recovery of five rare, threatened, or endangered species (RTE), and for managing other non-game species.

**513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

STRATEGIES:

- I.3.1. Continue to receive funding through Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act
- I.3.2. Contract with qualified individuals and organizations for biological surveys concentrating on populations and ranges of RTEs and native plants
- I.3.3. Conduct additional surveys identical to contracted surveys utilizing existing staff
- I.3.4. Determine management options for identified species
- I.3.5. Complete on-line nuisance animal control permitting system and train and license Nuisance Animal Control Operators
- I.3.6. Certify and permit wildlife rehabilitators

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Man days spent on rare, threatened, and endangered species biological investigations Man days preparing recovery plans for rare, threatened, and endangered species Man days of planning and regulating Nuisance Animal Control and wildlife rehabilitator
Outputs	Number of rare, threatened, and endangered species surveys completed Number of RTE recovery plans completed Develop a new training and licensing program for nuisance animal control operators and the number of wildlife rehabilitator contacts made
Outcomes	Number of RTE species for which range is identified Number of RTE recovery plans implemented Number of nuisance animal control operators trained and licensed Number of wildlife rehabilitator under permit
Efficiency	Percent of RTE surveys completed on time Percent of recovery plans implemented Percent of parishes with licensed nuisance animal control operators and wildlife rehabilitator

**513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

OBJECTIVE II.1.

Increase the acreage in the WMA and Refuge system by 25,000 acres by 2003.

STRATEGIES:

- II.1.1. Identify potential tracts for acquisition
- II.1.2. Evaluate desirability and costs
- II.1.3. Secure authorization and funding
- II.1.4. Negotiate purchase price and terms

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Input	Cost of land and overhead
Outputs	Number of landowner contacts, tract evaluations, appraisals, and negotiations
Outcome	Acres Purchased/Leased/Donated & Number of Tracts Acquired
Efficiency	Percentage of tracts acquired after tracts are identified for purchase and funding is authorized.

OBJECTIVE II.2.

Improve 100,000 acres of habitat by 2003 on the WMA and Refuge system.

STRATEGIES:

- II.2.1. Manage water within impoundment systems to provide quality wetland habitat
- II.2.2. Annually conduct timber inventories and harvests to improve wildlife habitat on Department-owned lands
- II.2.3. Annually conduct prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat on Department-owned pineland, predominantly pineland, marshland, and old field habitat
- II.2.4. Conduct habitat management and wildlife ecology studies to assess potential impacts of various management techniques
- II.2.5. Develop and maintain early successional habitat and forest openings on Department-owned lands

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PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

II.2.6. Insure that mineral development is completed with minimal adverse environmental impact

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Man days of staff time and costs of managing impoundments Staffing and money used to manage and establish forest lands Man days utilized to prescribe burn forest, marsh and old field habitat Man days directed toward research and survey
Outputs	Number of water control structures installed, repaired, and operated annually and the acres receiving habitat manipulation annually Number of timber inventories completed, prescriptions developed, stands marked for harvest, and bids solicited Number of acres prescribe burned Number of studies completed or populations surveyed
Outcomes	Number of acres of shallow water habitat provided annually Acres of timber harvested or reforested annually Number of acres improved for wildlife by maintaining early successional habitat Scientific knowledge is incorporated into technical assistance and educational programs
Efficiency	Number of wetland dependant birds using the impoundments Percent of forestry prescriptions completed Percent of acres prescribed for burning Percent of studies and surveys completed

OBJECTIVE II.3.

Provide 1.2 million user-days per year on the WMA and Refuge system each year through the year 2003.

STRATEGIES:

II.3.1. Conduct managed hunts/trapping.

**513 - OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
PROGRAM A - WILDLIFE**

- II.3.2. Provide infrastructure for public access.
- II.3.3. Provide public use facilities.
- II.3.4. Provide multi-use resource opportunities.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Inputs	Number of man days to conduct biological investigations and formulate recommendations and conduct managed hunts. Costs of building and maintaining access structures, roads and trails. Costs of building and maintaining public use facilities.
Outputs	Total number of days of public hunting and trapping permitted on WMA's and Refuges. Number of miles of roads and trails maintained. Number of public use facilities such as boat ramps, shooting ranges, water control recreational access structures, campgrounds, nature trails, comfort stations built or maintained.
Outcomes	Number of user days for hunting and trapping. Total number of miles of roads and trails on WMA's and Refuges. Total number of all user days on WMA's and Refuges.
Efficiency	Harvest of major species on WMA's. Percent of roads and trails in usable condition. Percent of public use facilities in usable conditions.

514 - OFFICE OF FISHERIES
PROGRAM A - FISHERIES

MISSION: It is the mission of the Office of Fisheries to conserve and protect Louisiana's renewable aquatic resources for present and future generations of Louisiana citizens by controlling harvest and by replenishing and enhancing stocks.

GOALS:

- I. Manage aquatic resource populations in such a manner that they will be sustainable in the present and future.
- II. Protect and maintain fish habitat for the benefit of aquatic resource stocks and stakeholders.
- III. Increase stakeholder satisfaction in the management of living aquatic resources.

OBJECTIVE I.1.

Complete a stock assessment for each of 10 major marine species (menhaden, brown shrimp, white shrimp, blue crab, American oyster, red drum, spotted seatrout, southern flounder, sheepshead, and mullet) by 2003

Strategy I.1.1: Collect fishery independent biological information on the abundance, size, age structure, natural mortality, and reproductive potential of each species harvested.

Strategy I.1.2: Collect fishery dependant information from the harvesters of the resource, including catch, effort, and biostatistical data.

Strategy I.1.3: Develop physical process models for major harvested species that describe the interaction of those species with their environment.

Strategy I.1.4: Prepare recommendations to Commission and Louisiana Legislature based on information gathered, as to actions required to sustain stocks under state jurisdiction.

Performance Indicators

Input

- Number of data records received from field stations.
- Number of requests for data received.

**514 - OFFICE OF FISHERIES
PROGRAM A - FISHERIES**

- Number of fishery-independent trawl gill, trammel, and seine samples taken per year.
- Number of fishery-dependent interviews from commercial fishing trips per year.

Output

- Number of computerized data records verified for accuracy.
- Number of data requests filled.
- Catch/effort indices for 6 marine finfish species - red drum, spotted seatrout, black drum, sheepshead, black drum, and striped mullet.
- Number of fish collected from the fisheries for which age and length information is taken.

Outcome

- Percent of data records incorporated in database that meet QA/QC standards.
- Percent of data requests processed.
- Percent of major fish stocks not overfished. (KEY INDICATOR)

Efficiency

- Percent of data records incorporated into databases within specified time limits.
- Data request processing time.
- Man-hours per Fishery-independent sample.
- Man-hours per Fishery-Dependent sample.

OBJECTIVE I.2.

Develop lake management plans for all public freshwater lakes over 4,000 acres by 2001.

Strategy I.2.1: Develop outline of lake management plan.

Strategy I.2.2: Gather historical information on waterbody.

Strategy I.2.3 Acquire additional data as needed.

Strategy I.2.4 Finalize lake management plan.

Strategy I.2.5 Update plan as necessary

Performance Indicators

Input

- The number of licensed fishermen in the state.
- The number of lakes over 4,000 acres.

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Output

- The number of lake management plans written
- The number of lakes sampled.

Outcome

- Fisheries population dynamics from fisheries independent data.
- Fisheries population dynamics from fisheries dependent data

Efficiency

- The number of lake management plans written per biologist.
- The length of time taken to develop each management plan.

OBJECTIVE I.3.

Develop recovery plans for all species of threatened and endangered freshwater fish.

Strategy I.3.1: Develop a list of threatened and endangered freshwater species of fish in Louisiana.

Strategy I.3.2: Develop an outline of fishery recovery plan for threatened and endangered species.

Strategy I.3.3: Gather historical information on rare, threatened and endangered species.

Strategy I.3.5: Acquire additional data as needed

Strategy I.3.6: Finalize fish recovery plans.

Performance Indicators

Input

- The number of threatened and endangered fishes in the state.
- The areas of occurrence of threatened and endangered fishes .

Output

- The number of recovery plans written
- The number of waterbodies sampled.

Outcome

- Population parameters of threatened and endangered species.
- Measures recommended to protect and enhance threatened and endangered species.

Efficiency

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- Effectiveness in protecting and/or reestablishing populations.

OBJECTIVE II.1.

Manage habitat to provide for no net loss of fish habitat by 2003

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Strategy II.1.1: | Develop habitat suitability models and define essential habitat for major fishery species. |
| Strategy II.1.2: | Develop artificial Reefs |
| Strategy II.1.3: | Respond to and remediate oil and hazardous materials spills. |
| Strategy II.1.4: | Create reefs for oyster habitat |
| Strategy II.1.5: | Regulate and monitor seismic activities. |
| Strategy II.1.6: | Recommend mitigation for observed impact on fisheries habitat. |
| Strategy II.1.7: | Integrate fisheries habitat management with ongoing coastal land use planning and activities. |

Performance Indicators

Input

- Number of acres of fish habitat (KEY INDICATOR)
- Number of seismic applications received.
- Number of spill incidents with potential to affect trust resources.
- Number of artificial reef permits processed.

Output

- Number of seismic applications processed.
- Number of seismic projects inspected.
- Number of spill notifications evaluated for potential impact to trust resources.
- Number of Natural Resource Damage Assessments conducted per consensus of participating agencies.
- Number of artificial reefs created.

Outcome

- Number of seismic applications processed.
- Percent of seismic projects inspected.
- Increased frequency of seismic project inspection.

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- Percent of spill notifications evaluated for impacts.
- Number of spill injury restoration projects implemented.
- Percent of artificial reef permits processed.

Efficiency

- Permit processing time.
- Mean number of spill notifications evaluated/person/day.
- Time to complete the cooperative NRDA process between spill incident and injury restoration.

OBJECTIVE II.2.

Establish, by the year 2001, maintenance control of nuisance aquatic plants that threaten the preservation, enhancement and utilization of aquatic habitat in public waterbodies by eliminating 25,000 acres of invasive, exotic plants annually, and conduct annual surveys of 25 public lakes to determine status of aquatic plant infestations.

- Strategy II.2.1: Utilize proven aquatic plant management techniques.
- Strategy II.2.2: Determine statewide aquatic plant infestations.
- Strategy II.2.3: Use of herbicide and biological controls, lake drawdowns and integrated methods of control.
- Strategy II.2.4: Investigate aquatic vegetation infestations in selected public lakes.

Performance Indicators

Input

- Number of acres of nuisance aquatic plants by region.
- Number of lakes needing typemapping and biomass sampling to determine status of aquatic plant infestations.

Output

- Number of acres treated by region.
- Number of lakes evaluated.

Outcome

- Percent of aquatic vegetation infestations treated statewide.
- Documentation of aquatic plant infestation trends in waterbodies sampled.

Efficiency

- Acres treated by region.

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- Percent of aquatic infestation treated by region.
- Cost per unit treated.

OBJECTIVE III.1.

Increase recreational stakeholder satisfaction in quality of fishing experience by 1% by 2003.

- Strategy III.1.1: Conduct stakeholder satisfaction survey each year.
- Strategy III.1.2: Modify management regime to conform with stakeholder expectations.
- Strategy III.1.3: Educate public on the principles of fisheries management.

Performance Indicators

Outcome

- Percent of boating population receiving benefits from projects.
- Number of user spaces provided per facility.
- Percentage of anglers satisfied with the management program of the Office.
(KEY INDICATOR)

OBJECTIVE III.2.

Increase commercial stakeholder satisfaction in management program by 1% by 2003

- Strategy III.2.1: Issue permits for participation in special fisheries.
- Strategy III.2.2: Conduct stakeholder satisfaction survey each year.
- Strategy III.2.3: Modify management regime to conform with stakeholder expectations.
- Strategy III.2.4: Educate public on the principles of fisheries management.
- Strategy III.2.5: Issue oyster leases and collect annual rent and renewals fees for all oyster leases in accordance with all statues, rules and regulations.
- Strategy III.2.6: Interact with other Agencies which impact Louisiana's fisheries.

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PROGRAM A - FISHERIES**

Performance Indicators

Input

- Number of commercial fishermen requesting one of the permits issued by the Office.

Output

- Oyster lease notices issued on time and with less than 1% error.
- Numbers of permits issued.

Outcome

- Time required to issue permits.
- Percentage of commercial fishermen satisfied with the management program of the Office. (KEY INDICATOR)

Efficiency

- Time from receipt of application to issuance of permits.

OBJECTIVE III.3.

Increase the number of boating access and development projects by 3% by the year 2000.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Strategy III.3.1: | Evaluate applications through use of Department guidelines that prioritize need. |
| Strategy III.3.2: | Closely monitor approved and ongoing projects to ensure that contractual obligations are being met. |
| Strategy III.3.3: | Coordinate the maintenance and upkeep of access and development projects. |
| Strategy III.3.4: | Coordinate funding availability and obligations. |

Performance Indicators

Input

- The number of requests for boating access and development projects.
- The amount of Sportfish Restoration funds available.

Output

- The total number of completed boating access and development projects.
- The total number of ongoing boating access and development projects.
- The total number of newly-approved boating access and development projects.
- The number of facilities receiving maintenance.

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Outcome

- Percent of boating population receiving benefits from projects.
- Number of user spaces provided per facility.

Efficiency

- Percent of available funding utilized.

OBJECTIVE III.4.

Increase non-consumptive stakeholder satisfaction in management program by 1% by 2003

- Strategy III.4.1: Conduct stakeholder satisfaction survey each year.
- Strategy III.4.2: Modify management regime to conform with stakeholder expectations.
- Strategy III.4.3: Educate public on the principles of fisheries management.
- Strategy III.4.4: Actively engage in fisheries public relations statewide.

Performance Indicators

Input

- Number of non-consumptive users of the living aquatic resources

Output

- Number of presentations to non-consumptive users.
- Numbers of tours conducted at the Booker Fowler Hatchery.

Outcome

- Percentage of non-consumptive users satisfied with the management program of the Office. (KEY INDICATOR)

OBJECTIVE III.5.

Provide technical assistance to the owners of 150 private lakes and ponds annually.

- Strategy III.5.1: Train employees regarding the management of lakes and ponds.
- Strategy III.5.2: Provide pond analysis services to individual water body owners.

Performance Indicators

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PROGRAM A - FISHERIES**

Input

- Number of requests for advice in managing private ponds and lakes

Output

- The number of responses to requests for advice in managing private ponds and lakes.

Outcome

- Percent of requesters expressing satisfaction in the assistance given in managing private lakes and ponds. (KEY INDICATOR)

Efficiency

- Cost per pond of advice given.

OBJECTIVE III.6.

Spawn, culture and stock in state waters 5 million game fish and other fishes in 2000, in support of district management plans.

Strategy III.6.1: Operate hatchery facilities to produce fish for stocking public waters in accordance with management objectives.

Strategy III.6.2: Maintain four hatchery facilities.

Strategy III.6.3: Maintain close cooperative ties with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state hatcheries.

Strategy III.6.4: Provide tours and public interaction with all hatchery facilities.

Performance Indicators

Input

- Total capacity of all hatcheries.
- Requests for stocking, both within and without the Department.

Output

- The total number of fish produced.
- The total number of fish stocked.

Outcome

- Percent increase in Florida bass gene in selected waters.
- Success in the recovery of species of special concern.

Efficiency

- Cost per unit of fry produced.

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- Production per unit of pond and trough space.

BE **HIP** IN LOUISIANA

"CERTIFICATION" FOR HUNTING MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS IN LOUISIANA

Do you hunt doves, ducks, geese, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots or gallinules in Louisiana? If so, and you purchase your hunting license after June 1, 1998, you must become part of the Harvest Information Program (HIP). All resident, non-resident and lifetime license holders must be HIP certified. In addition, we encourage all senior citizens and youth under 16 to participate in this program.

The process is simple. When you apply for your license you will be asked, "Do you intend to hunt migratory game birds in Louisiana this year?" If you answer "yes", you will be given a questionnaire that will ask for the number of ducks, doves, geese, gallinules, rails, snipe, coots and woodcock you bagged last season. Once those questions are answered you will return the questionnaire to the clerk and will be given a HIP permit that must be placed on your license carrier. You will then be HIP certified. A simple process.



If you answer "no" to the question, you are not certified and it will be illegal for you to hunt any species of migratory game birds in Louisiana that year. If you obtained your hunting license and indicated you did not want to be HIP certified and later decide to hunt migratory game birds in Louisiana you can easily become certified by stopping at any license outlet and make that change.

That's it. There is no cost to you. By becoming HIP certified, you may become part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey of migratory bird hunters.



WHY COLLECT HARVEST INFORMATION?

HIP certification means that more information will be available to wildlife professionals so they can better manage your wildlife resources. Inadequate information about the impacts of hunting on species populations has been used as a reason to challenge hunting regulations in some states. Thus, your cooperation is extremely important.

For a number of years, the USFWS surveyed a small number of federal duck stamp buyers about their hunting of migratory birds, but the main emphasis was on waterfowl. However, the precision of the estimates for waterfowl harvest was not adequate. In addition, the survey did not include the millions of dove, woodcock and other migratory game bird hunters who did not hunt waterfowl. Differing methods and timings of state surveys made it impossible to calculate valid estimates of the migratory game bird harvest at regional and national levels.



HOW DOES HIP WORK?

The USFWS will randomly select a sample of HIP registered duck hunters, woodcock hunters, snipe hunters and other migratory bird hunters and ask them to participate in a harvest survey. These selected hunters will receive hunter record cards prior to the migratory bird hunting season or soon thereafter. They will be asked to record their daily harvest of various migratory game birds and return the completed record card at the end of the season. This survey will provide more accurate harvest information than previous ones and will make it possible for the USFWS and Louisiana to more accurately determine the status and needs of our migratory game bird resources.



THANK YOU

Your cooperation and support of HIP is greatly appreciated. Harvest information obtained as a result of HIP will help LDWF and USFWS manage your migratory game bird resources so your children and grandchildren can also enjoy the thrills of migratory game bird hunting during their lifetime.



LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

For more information about HIP in Louisiana call 504/765-2887.

1998-99 LOUISIANA HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

Form must be completed using BLACK BALL POINT PEN.

Indicate the number of migratory birds you bagged last season.

[illegible]

Print all characters using CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY as illustrated below.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

ZIPCODE		DATE OF BIRTH	
		M	M
		D	D
		Y	Y

Y	Y	D	D
---	---	---	---

M	M	D	D
---	---	---	---

219106

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DATE OF ISSUE

INSTRUCTIONS

- Hunter completes form using black ball point pen.
- Completely fill in boxes indicating the number of birds bagged.. Fill in as shown ■
- Agent completes date of issue.
- Remove this portion entirely before sending to USF&W.
- Do not fold or bend.

**1998-99
NATIONAL MIGRATORY
BIRD HARVEST
INFORMATION PROGRAM
COMPLETED**

2 1 9 1 0 6



1998-99 LOUISIANA HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM
Form must be completed using BLACK BALL POINT PEN.

Indicate the number of migratory birds you bagged last season.

	Doves	Ducks	Geese	Rails/ Snipe/ Woodcock	Gallinules Coots
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11-30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 +	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Print all characters using CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY as illustrated below.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FIRST NAME

☒ Mr. ☒ Ms. ☐ M.L.

LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP CODE

DATE OF BIRTH

STATE

JR, SR, etc.

2 1 9 1 0 6

INSTRUCTIONS

- Hunter completes form using black ball point pen.
- Completely fill in boxes indicating the number of birds bagged. Fill in as shown ■
- Agent completes date of issue.
- Remove this portion entirely before sending to USF&W.
- Do not fold or bend.

42

DATE OF ISSUE

1998-99
NATIONAL MIGRATORY
BIRD HARVEST
INFORMATION PROGRAM
COMPLETED
2 1 9 1 0 6

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby amend a Rule (Title 76:VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species

Recreational Bag Limits

* * *

4. Greater amberjack	1 fish per person per day
----------------------	---------------------------

* * *

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are

limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 or any charter vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of §335 apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial license or permit was issued.

H. Species

Minimum Size Limits

1. Red Snapper 15 inches total length
2. Gray, mutton and 12 inches total length
yellowtail snapper
3. Lane snapper 8 inches total length
4. Red, gag, black, 20 inches total length
yellowfin and nassau
grouper
5. Jewfish 50 inches total length
6. Greater amberjack 28 inches fork length (recreational)
36 inches fork length (commercial)
7. Black seabass 8 inches total length
8. Vermillion snapper 10 inches total length

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Headboat - a vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to be operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or, in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory pelagic fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are

more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE; Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996), LR 24: (June 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MAY 1998

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-MARCH 1998

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-278

WMA&REFUGES-12

138-Boating

52-Angling Without Resident License

9-Angling Without License Non-Resident

54-Fishing Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear Without Recreational Gear License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Possession Over Limit Of Freshwater Game Fish

4-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Frogging In Closed Season

12-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-DWI

2-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

5 frogs, 8 black bass.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I:

138-Boating

12-WMA Rules & Regs.

125-Sport Fishing

3- Misc.

15-Misc.

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

12-Bodcau

Page (2)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-170

WMA&REFUGES-0

92-Boating

31-Angling Without A License

10-Angling Without A Non-Resident License

13-Fish Without A Resident Pole License

1-Take Over The Limit Of Game Fish-Bass

1-Failure To Comply With Scenic River Rules And Regs.

4-Possession Of Drugs And Paraphernalia

8-Littering

3-Under Age Acohol consumption

1-Expired Drivers License

2-No Drivers License

2-Exceeding Speeding Law

1-No Passing Zone

1-DWI

CONFISCATIONS:

8 cans of beer, 2 empty beer cans, 1 marijuana cigarette and possession of drug paraphernalia.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

92-Boating 15-Other

8-Littering

21-Public Assistance

55-Sport Fishing

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REGION 2 CONTD.

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

NONE.

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REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-281

WMA&REFUGES-17

92-Boating

117-Angle Without A License In Possession

13-Fish Without Resident Pole License

11-Angle Without Non-Resident License In Possession

1-Use Recreational Gear W/O Resident Gear License

17-Take Illegal/Undersize Black Bass

3-Take Game Fish Illegally

6-Frogging In Closed Season

3-Theft Of Pond Raised Fish

1-Use Crawfish Traps W/O Commercial License

2-DWI

1-Contributing To Delinquency Of Juvenile

1-Permitting Unlicensed Driver To Drive

1-Disturbing The Peace

6-Littering

1-Illegal Possession Of Marijuana

1-No Drivers License

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

1-Unlawful Possession Of Alcohol By Person Under 18

1-Operating ATV On Public Road

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REGION 3 CONTD.

1-Discharge Firearm From A Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

6 crappie, 29 black bass, 5 white bass, 9 bream, 34 catfish, 1 bullfrog, 16 beers, 1 parcel marijuana, 1 pair of scissors, 1 pack of rolling paper.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

92-Boating

6-Littering

171-Sport Fishing

1-Commercial Fishing

11-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

12-Alexandria State Forest WMA

4-Spring Bayou WMA

1-Camp Beauregard WMA

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REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-139

WMA&REFUGES-26

73-Boating

24-Angling Without A License

14-Angling Without A Non-Resident License

20-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear Without Recreational Gear License

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Without Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License

1-Taking Or Possessing Alligators Closed Season

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Obtain License By Fraud

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

18 hoop nets with leads.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

73-Boating

61-Sport Fishing

1-Hunting

2-Other

2-WMA Rules & Regs.

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REGION 4 CONTD.

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

12-Boeuf WMA

14-Dewey Wills WMA

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-392

WMA&REFUGES-50

271-Boating

2-Angling Without A Saltwater License

1-Angling A Non-Resident Saltwater License

32-Angling Without A Resident License

7-Angling Without A Non-Resident License

3-Use Gear Without A Recreational Gear License

1-Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

29-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Operate On Or Within 100 feet Of A Scenic River W/O Permit

4-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Without Commercial License #

1-Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License #

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without Vessel License #

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish Without Retail Seafood License #

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Transport Without Required License# (Resident Or Non-Resident)

1-Trawling Inside Waters W/Oversized Double Rigs Over 25 feet

1-Sell Or Buy Fish Without Wholesale/Retail Dealer License #

2-Tending Crab Traps Illegal Hours

REGION 5 CONTD.

4-Trawl In State Waters (Outside Waters)

2-Possess Firearm While Frogging

2-Frogging In Closed Season

2-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

5-Littering

8-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Flight From An Officer

2-Driving Without A Operators License

2-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

CONFISCATIONS:

7 undersize black drum, 2 undersize spotted sea trout, 1 crab trap, 26 bull frogs, 1 shrimp trawl, 1-17 foot Bass Tracker boat and trailer with 60 h.p. engine (stolen), 3-.22 caliber rifles, 3 narcotic drug tablets, 1,740 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$3,569.25.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

271-Boating	15-Other	5-Littering	8-Public Assistance
82-Sport Fishing			
15-Commercial Fishing			
4-Reptile And Amphibians			

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

35-Rockefeller	6-Marsh Island	3-West Bay
3-Sabine Island	3-State Wildlife	

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REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-254

WMA&REFUGES-8

148-Boating

1-Allow Another To Use Recreational License

68-Angling Without A License

7-Angling Without A Non-Resident License

12-Fish Without A Resident Pole License

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Take Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License

3-Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License

2-Take/Possess Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

2-Sell/Buy Fish Without A Retail Seafood License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Trawl In Restricted Area

1-Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On Refuge

1-Resisting An Officer

1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

1-DWI

1-Littering

1-Trawl In Restricted Area

CONFISCATIONS:

4 resident fishing licenses, 2 black bass, 7 purchase receipt books for fish/seafood.

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REGION 6 CONTD.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

148-Boating	1-Littering	1-Public Assistance
90-Sport Fishing		
10-Commercial Fishing		
1-Trawling		
3-Other		
1-WMA Rules & Regs.		

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

8-Sherburne WMA

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REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-447

WMA&REFUGES: 0

249-Boating

68-Angling Without Resident License

18-Angling Without Non-Resident License

16-Angling Without Resident Pole License

3-Use Gear Without Recreational Gear License

2-Angling Without Saltwater License

2-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

3-Take Over Limit Of Red Drum

2-Take Undersize Red Drum

2-Take Undersize Black Drum

1-Take Fish Without Commercial License

3-Sell Fish Without Wholesale/Retail License

1-Take Fish Without Commercial Gear License

2-Failure To Report Commercial Fish Data

1-Possess Undersize Crabs

2-Fail To Tag Containerized Oysters

1-Resisting Arrest

19-BUI

2-Public Intimidation

2-Theft

REGION 7 CONTD.

7-Littering

1 -Improper Lane Usage

2-Lacy Act

2-Federal-Conspiracy

2-State-Conspiracy

2-Violation Of Sanitary Code

2-Injuring Public Records

2-Filing False Public Records

8-Fugitive Warrants

CONFISCATIONS:

3 catfish, 38 red fish, 9 black drum, 3 crates of crabs, 1 outboard motor, 1-17 foot aluminum boat.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

249-Boating

19-BUI

7-Littering

10-Commercial Fishing

116-Sport Fishing

6-Federal

40-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

NONE

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-190

WMA&REFUGES-20

38-Boating

37-Angling Without A Basic Resident License

5-Angling Without A Basic Non-Resident License

4-Use Gear Without A Recreational Gear License

4-Angling Without A Resident Saltwater License

1-Angling Without A Non-Resident Saltwater License

4-Fail To Have Saltwater License As Per 56:13.1 E

2-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally (Red Drum)

2-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum

4-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

7-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

11-Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License

8-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

3-Leave Nets Unattended

3-Use Saltwater Gill Nets Illegally

3-Possess Net W/O Traversing Permit

3-Blocking Free Passage Of Fish

2-Possess Crabs In Berry Stage

1-Use Crab Traps Without Required Markings

6-Destroy Legal Crab Traps Or Remove Contents

REGION 8 CONTD.

4-Trawl In Inside Waters In Closed Season

3-Butterflying In Closed Season

30-Use Skimmers In Closed Season

2-Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9;Fail to Refrigerate Properly andVessel Regs.

3-Other

CONFISCATIONS:

4 red drum, 50 lbs. Of shrimp donated, 24 speckled trout, 21 red drum, 9 black drum, 1 white trout, 338 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$236.60, 676 lbs. Of garfish sold for \$101.40, 1,375 lbs. Of black drum 48 lbs. Of sheepshead, and 5 lbs. Of flounder all sold for \$1,046.85, 30 sacks of oysters returned to water, 260 lbs. Of crabs returned to water, 370 lbs. Of shrimp returned to water, 2 black drum returned to water, 2 trawls, 2 butterfly nets, 32 skimmer nets, 8 gill nets, 2 resident recreational licenses, 1 ice chest.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

38-Boating

63-Recreational Fishing

86-Commercial Fishing

3-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

20-Biloxi WMA

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

REGION 8 ENFORCEMENT

COMPLAINTS

1. Complaints of persons skimming in closed areas along the inside outside line were common. We also received complaints of persons trawling in closed season and areas. Once opening dates were set, activity increased tremendously.

PATROLS

1. Directed shrimp patrols were scheduled to address complaints and agents observations. Regular saltwater patrols by boat have been continued. The plane was back in service after an engine replacement, and was used to make several cases and many patrols. Much shrimp activity seen.

INQUIRIES

1. We received numerous inquiries for TED information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.
2. We received quite a few calls regarding Breton and Chandeleur Sounds and the new law size in outside waters, and mesh size for inside waters.

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-229

WMA&REFUGES-4

126-Boating

27-Angling Without A License

3-Angling W/O Non-Resident License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Angling W/O Saltwater License

1-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

2-Take Undersize Red Drum

3-Take Undersize Black Drum

2-Not Abiding By Commission Rules Over limit Of Red Snapper

2-Not Abiding By Commission Rules Undersize Red Snapper

5-Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regs.

6-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial fish W/O Commercial Gear License

5-Take Commercial Fish No Vessel License

1-Commercial Fisherman Selling To Other Than Wholesale/Retail Dealers

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Fail To Mark Softshell Crab Improper Molting Stage

1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel License

2-Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel

REGION 9 CONTD.

1-Possess Undersize Commercial Hard Crabs

3-Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs

1-Interfere With Commercial Fisherman

4-Trawling In Closed Season Inside Waters

2-Butterflying In Closed Season

5-Use Skimmers In Closed Season

6-Use Trawls Exceeding Size Requirements

2-Paratrawling Illegally

4-Violate Shrimp Provisions Oyster Bayou

1-Failure To Have Written Permission

1-DWI

1-Littering

1-Simple Criminal Damage To Property

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

1-Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

1-Fail To Refrigerate Properly

1-Filing False Public Records

1-Incomplete Harvester Book

CONFISCATIONS:

5 red drum, 2 black drum, 3 ½ sacks of crawfish, 10,695 lbs. shrimp sold, for \$13,054.80, 100 lbs. Of shrimp released 1,900 lbs. Of crabs released, 25 red

REGION 9 CONTD.

donated, 67 sacks of oysters released, 4 butterfly nets, 8 trawls, 8 skimmer nets,
1 skiff, 2 outboard motors, 1 driver's license, 1 commercial license, 1 vessel license,
2 boat registrations, 1 Louisiana boat decal, 1 ice chest.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

126-Boating

47-Sport Fishing

26-Commercial Fishing

23-Trawling

7-Other

TOTAL OF CASES MADE ON WMA&REFUGES:

1-Pt Au Chene

3-Atchafalaya Delta

Page (20)

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-29

19-Boating

3-Sanitary Code Violation-Failure To Complete Harvester Log Book

And/ Cover Oysters With Tarp.

1-Failure To Have Written Permission To Take Oysters From Private Lease

1-Angling Without Non-Resident License

1-Angling Without Basic License

1-Take Crabs Without Commercial Vessel License

3-Taking Shrimp During Closed Season

CONFISCATIONS:

67 sacks of oysters, 3 shrimp trawls.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

19-Boating

8-Commercial Fishing

2-Recreational Fishing

Page (21)

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-84

26-Boating

14-Angling Without A License

3-Angling Without A License Non-Resident

1-Use Gear Without A Gear License

1-Angling Without A Saltwater License Non-Resident

4-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs.

4-Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regs.

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Fishing License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Sell And/Or Buy Fish Without Wholesale/Retail License

5-Trawling In Closed Season (Inside Waters)

2-Butterflying In Closed Season

2-Use Skimmers In Closed Season

2-Not Abiding By Rules/Regs. On WMA

2-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

3-BUI

1-Littering

5-Other

1-Obtain License By Fraud

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

Page (22)

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE CONTD.

1-Recreational Fisherman Harassing Commercial Fisherman

CONFISCATIONS:

25 red snapper, 2,015 lbs. Of shrimp, 4 skimmer nets, 6 butterfly nets, 2 trawls, 1 pair lead nets, 3 test trawls, 128 quart ice chest, 1 Zebco 404.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE:

26-Boating

27-Sport Fishing

16-Commercial Fishing

2-WMA

13-Misc.

Page (23)

S.W.E.P.

53-TOTAL CASES

102-ENGINE HOURS

270 BOATS CHECKED

6-Boating

3-Fail To Comply with Charter Boat Regs.

5-Use Skimmer Net Closed Season

5-Use Butterfly Net Closed Season

1-Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish Without Gear License

1-Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

1-Allow Another to Use Commercial License

1-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

1-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Vessel

1-Misrepresent Booking Information

1-Other Than Wildlife

1-Interfere With Commercial Fishing Vessel

1-Reckless Operation Of Vehicle

2-Careless Operation Of Vehicle

1-Reckless Operation Of Watercraft

6-Trawl Inside Waters/Closed Season

11-Angling Without Resident Saltwater License

Page (24)

S.W.E.P. CONTD.

3-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

CONFISCATIONS:

1,838 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$1,811.60.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.:

6-Boating

20-Recreational Fishing

27-Commercial Fishing

Page (25)

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL CASES-20

1-Boating

2-Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

2-Failure To Tag Containerized Oysters

2-Fail To Maintain Records

2-Sell And Buy Fish Without Retail Seafood Dealers License

1-Injuring Public Records

1-Forgery

1-Filing False Applications

1-Commercial Fisherman Selling To Other Than Wholesale/Retail Dealer

6-Trawl State Waters Closed Season

CONFISCATIONS:

1 boat, 1 outboard motor, 7 ½ pints of untagged oysters.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

1-Boating

14-Commercial Fishing

4-Misc.

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TOTAL CASES WMA&REFUGES-137

TOTAL CASES -2380

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
MAY, 1998

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 61.1

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. - 64.1

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 14.7

Enforcement Hours - 124.6

Other Divisions - 15.3

Total Plane Use - 139.9

1998		October			1998	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ✓	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 2-JUN-1998

CURRENT MONTH
05/01/1998 TO 05/31/1998FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/1997 TO 05/31/1998INCEPTION TO DATE
05/31/1998

ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION

# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
0	\$0.00	211	\$207,985.04	3,587	\$2,467,042.86
9	\$225.00	15	\$375.00	148	\$3,700.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21

RESTITUTION ASSESSED

0	\$225.00	211	\$208,360.04	3,587	\$2,272,828.62
---	----------	-----	--------------	-------	----------------

PAYMENTS
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS
OVERPAYMENTS
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.
RETURNED CHECKS
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS
DEBITS
CREDITS
REASSESSMENTS
DEBITS
CREDITS
WRITE-OFFS
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT

** TOTAL OUTSTANDING

0	\$2,885.02-	168	\$58,275.89-	2,356	\$396,868.19-
4	\$950.46-	141	\$27,574.72-	1,617	\$194,436.22-
0	\$0.00	7	\$214.13	99	\$1,827.40
0	\$0.00	1	\$209.82	38	\$7,360.33
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	18	\$78,254.09
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$36.75
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	13	\$10.22-
0	\$0.00	1	\$34.98	19	\$6,567.67
0	\$0.00	2	\$501.85-	54	\$34,095.46-
0	\$0.00	2	\$25,199.22-	207	\$138,113.64-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,399.24-
0	\$209.82-	0	\$4,236.69-	0	\$4,295.59-
5	\$4,035.13-	6	\$4,491.13-	27	\$27,358.64-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
				1,004	\$1,562,484.70

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS

0	\$0.00	2	\$49.00	57	\$11,069.67
1	\$0.00	2	\$12.25	2	\$2,767.41
	\$0.00		\$3,202.60		\$3,202.60 *

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 2-JUN-1998

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00	CAN NOT BE INVOICED	3	\$125.52
1 - 30 DAYS	1	\$216.00	CURRENT	2	\$1,363.10
31 - 60 DAYS	6	\$2,120.60	1 - 30 DAYS	3	\$1,851.58
61 - 90 DAYS	15	\$7,627.45	31 - 90 DAYS	12	\$59,621.33
91 - 120 DAYS	15	\$12,295.97			
121 - 150 DAYS	6	\$1,466.05			
151 - 180 DAYS	1	\$97.20	91 - 180 DAYS	28	\$12,549.19
181 - 365 DAYS	73	\$49,550.56	181 - 365 DAYS	27	\$34,708.07
OVER ONE YEAR	130	\$148,924.75	CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	109	\$506,698.59
OVER TWO YEARS	164	\$93,178.83	OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	\$0.00
OVER THREE YEARS	180	\$139,921.07	OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	820	\$945,567.32
		=====			=====
** TOTAL AGING	591	\$455,398.48	** TOTAL AGING	1,004	\$1,562,484.70

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,238)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May., 1995	23	11,632		16	4,315	654		
June 1995	45	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May., 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	71,894		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May., 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997	5	8,037		10	2,335	765		
Total FY 1997	310	410,373	0	288	52,794	27,290	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	2,812		8	1,585	823		
Aug., 1997	14	8,741		8	1,496	779		
Sept., 1997	29	19,926		12	2,052	1,278		
Oct., 1997	12	4,717		23	3,185	2,064		
Nov., 1997	23	54,965		10	2,425	1,218		
Dec., 1997	25	36,881		15	4,377	2,776		
Jan., 1998	42	30,026		17	5,300	3,534		
Feb., 1998	37	31,165		29	22,962	8,501		
Mar., 1998	9	13,273		32	9,407	4,372		
Apr., 1998	10	5,628		10	2,603	1,280		
May., 1998	0	225		8	2,885	950		
June 1998								
Total FY 1998	211	208,360	0	172	58,276	27,575	41.2%	81.5%

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-164

6/2/98

JUNE COMMISSION MEETING SET
AMENDED AGENDA

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 1998 in the Louisiana room of the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of May 7, 1998.
3. Public comments—1998-99 resident game hunting seasons.
4. Rule ratification—importation of white-tailed deer.
5. Notice of intent—hunting of farm raised white-tailed deer, exotic deer and antelope.
6. 1998 wild turkey hunting season results and shotgun drawing.
7. Notice of intent—repeal of goose creeping regulation.
8. Harvest Information Program (HIP).
9. Rule—reef fish, daily take and size limits set by commission.
10. Discussion of Department's strategic plan.
11. Enforcement and aviation reports for May.
12. Division reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana duck stamp print design.
13. Set October 1998 meeting date.
14. Public comments.
15. Adjourn.

-30-

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June 2, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. Rule Ratification - Importation of White-Tailed Deer
5. Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope
6. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
7. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation
8. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
9. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission
10. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
11. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
12. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
13. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
14. Public Comments
15. Adjourn

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323
Norman McCall, 318-775-7025
Tom Kelly, 318-276-7867
Danny Babin, 504-563-4202

Subject: Commission Agenda

Date: June 2, 1998

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The enclosed is the latest agenda for this Thursday's Commission Meeting.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 4, 1998
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
- Danny Timmer
5. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation -
Hugh Bateman
6. Harvest Information Program (HIP) - Mike Olinde
7. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by
Commission - Harry Blanchet
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Winton Vidrine
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print
Design - Dave Morrison
11. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-163

6/1/98

JUNE COMMISSION MEETING SET AMENDED AGENDA

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 1998 in the Louisiana room of the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of May 7, 1998.
3. Public comments—1998-99 resident game hunting seasons.
4. 1998 wild turkey hunting season results and shotgun drawing.
5. Notice of intent—repeal of goose creeping regulation.
6. Harvest Information Program (HIP).
7. Rule—reef fish, daily take and size limits set by commission.
8. Discussion of Department's strategic plan.
9. Enforcement and aviation reports for May.
10. Division reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana duck stamp print design.
11. Set October 1998 meeting date.
12. Public comments.
13. Adjourn.

-30-

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C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Jerald Hanchey
Norman McCall
Bill Busbice

Subject: Budget Committee Meeting

Date: June 1, 1998

Pages: 1, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Tom Gattle has called a meeting of the Budget Committee for Thursday, June 4, 1998 in the Fourth Floor Conference Room beginning at 9:00 AM.

Please let us know if you will be unable to attend. Thank you.

sch

cc: James Jenkins, Jr.
Ron Couvillion

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

June 1, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
5. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation
6. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
7. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
11. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 4, 1998
10:00 AM

Okayed by Mr.
Lattelle 6/1/98 -
8:30 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
- Danny Timmer
5. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation -
Hugh Bateman
6. Harvest Information Program (HIP) - Mike Olinde
- ~~7. Notice of Intent - Commercial Harvest of Box Turtles -
Jeff Boundy~~
8. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by
Commission - Harry Blanchet
9. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan - Wynnette Kees
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Winton Vidrine
11. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print
Design - Dave Morrison
12. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjourn

Office of Wildlife -
NOI - Repeal of
Goose Creeping
Regulation -

added 5/29/98 by
Mr. Fattle

May 29, 1998

NOI RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

A public board meeting has been scheduled by
10 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, at the
Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

Minutes of May 7, 1998

3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
5. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation
6. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
7. Notice of Intent - Commercial Harvest of Box Turtles
8. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission
9. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
11. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
12. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjourn

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-155

5/29/98

JUNE COMMISSION MEETING SET

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 1998 in the Louisiana room of the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of May 7, 1998.
3. Public comments—1998-99 resident game hunting seasons.
4. 1998 wild turkey hunting season results and shotgun drawing.
5. Harvest Information Program (HIP).
6. Notice of intent—commercial harvest of box turtles.
7. Rule—reef fish, daily take and size limits set by commission.
8. Discussion of Department's strategic plan.
9. Enforcement and aviation reports for May.
10. Division reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana duck stamp print design.
11. Set October 1998 meeting date.
12. Public comments.
13. Adjourn.

-30-

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323
Norman McCall, 318-775-7025
Tom Kelly, 318-276-7867
Danny Babin, 504-563-4202

Subject: Commission Agenda

Date: May 27, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Original memorandum and back-up material will follow in the mail.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 26, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
5. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
6. Notice of Intent - Commercial Harvest of Box Turtles

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan

Page 2
Commission Meeting
May 26, 1998

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
11. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments


JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

May 26, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998
3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
5. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
6. Notice of Intent - Commercial Harvest of Box Turtles
7. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission
8. Discussion of Department's Strategic Plan
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
11. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

Memorandum
from the desk of

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

President, Terral RiverService, Inc.

Rt. 1, Box 40

Lake Providence, LA 71254

Phone: (318)559-1500

Fax: (318)559-1524

TO: Susan Hawkins
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Fax # 504-765-0948

FROM: Tom Gattle

DATE: May 26, 1998

RE: June Agenda

I have received the June agenda and have nothing to add or delete at this time. Please be sure copies are sent to the Commission members in an effort to keep them informed.

Thanks!

TMG:tjr

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: June Agenda

Date: May 21, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached and call me. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 7, 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Public Comments - 1998-99 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
4. 1998 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Results & Shotgun Drawing
5. Harvest Information Program (HIP)
6. Notice of Intent - Commercial Harvest of Box Turtles

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Rule - Reef Fish, Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

8. Department's Strategic Plan

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1998

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce 1999-2000 Louisiana Duck Stamp Print Design
11. Set October 1998 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

Fur + Refuge -
Proposed Regulations
to Limit Commercial
Harvest of Box
Turtles - Jeff

Agenda Items

1998-99 Resident Game

Hunting Seasons

Key Hunting Season Results -
AWING, NCTF - D. Timmer

1999-2000, Ga. Duck Stamp

N - Dave Morrison

4. Harvest Information Program (HIP) - M. Olinda

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 5, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 4, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, May 18 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, June 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

5-8-98
Please return by
May 15

Thanks
Kear

Items?

ROUTING LIST	DATE:
BOUDREAU	
FOOTE	✓
BOUDREAU	5-18-98
BLANCHET	R/R 5/18/98
DUGAS	5/18/98
HANIFEN	no - 5/18/98 JH/LC
SHADE Thomas	GT 5/18
SCHEXNAYDER	hopefully not
SHEPARD	
Trusdale	h/o 5/18/98
Finley	no 5/18/98 HF/R

- Ratification of reef fish rule
(NOI passed 11/97) - Hurry Blanchet

State of Louisiana



to Bennie

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 5, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

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cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

NO AGENDA ITEMS -- INLAND FISHERIES

BENNIE FONTENOT
5/15/98

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 5, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 4, 1998

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine ✓
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Report" and "WV".

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 5, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
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